




20P



THE OPTIMISTS
Mary Ann Sieghart on
a generation with hope
Young idealists, p8 & p15



SIMON JENKINS
Crime statistics:
a health warning
Between the lines, page 16



ART REVIEW
Art and the bitter truth
of the trenches
Anne McElroy, page 5

20P

THE TIMES

No. 65,071 WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 28 1994

Breakthrough in seven-day talks

Deal reached to settle rail pay dispute

By Philip Bassett, Industrial Editor

LEADERS of the RMT rail union and Railtrack employers reached a deal last night to settle the four-month series of signalworkers' strikes.

After more than 60 hours of talks over seven days with the conciliation service Acas, negotiators for Railtrack and the RMT, Maritime and Transport union agreed the package to end the longest strike in Britain during the 1990s.

Although details of the terms of the settlement were not immediately announced, Jimmy Knapp, the RMT's general secretary, arrived at the London headquarters of the conciliation service shortly after 7pm last night to be told of the deal.



Knapp: executive called to be briefed at Acas

"We need to be briefed on the situation," he said. "The full executive will join us later."

The union's executive had been on standby throughout the seven-day strike, ready to consider the agreement, if resubmitted at 8pm last night.

All the elements of the agreement on pay, restructuring and productivity are believed to have been agreed during the past few days. Yesterday's talks finalised how elements of the pay package would feed through into signalworkers' basic rates and earnings.

Speculation swept round Westminster that the deal involved a rise of about 5 per cent on top of a basic rate rise of 2.5 per cent, although both Railtrack and the RMT publicly denied such figures.

It was not immediately clear

what effect the deal would have on the latest rail strike, due to begin at midnight tonight, continuing over Thursday and Friday. However, British Rail said it would run a record number of trains — 8,000, more than half the regular 15,000 — if the strike was still effective.

Any agreement will have to be put to what RMT officials have described as a "referendum" of the union's 3,708 signallers members. The ballot is to start as early as today, or at the latest tomorrow.

Ministers will also examine the details of the package closely, though it is understood that the state-owned Railtrack kept Whitehall officials carefully informed about the negotiation of the package at Acas in order to try to avoid any danger of the Government vetoing a deal.

Both Railtrack and the RMT are likely to claim victory in the dispute, though if the final package contains

more money for RMT members than was on the table before the marathon Acas talks began, the union will be better placed in trying to press home its claims of success.

The dispute started with Railtrack, on the one hand, seeking wide-ranging changes in working practices as part of an extensive restructuring package which would improve future productivity. The RMT, on the other, originally tabled a claim for an "interim" increase of 11 per cent as payment for past efficiency gains.

In early June ministers rejected an informal agreement between the company and the union offering increases of 5.7 per cent.

Once the informally tabled offer had been vetoed, the union mounted a series of strikes spread over 16 weeks. Railtrack, however, managed to open increasing amounts of its track by using managers, supervisors and non-union workers to man signalboxes, and by 4pm weeks' 24-hour strike, British Rail claimed to be running 53 per cent of its normal 15,000 daily services.

British Rail has lost more than £200 million in the dispute, while individual signalworkers have lost an average of almost £1,200.

The union's executive committee will consider this morning a proposed strike over pay on the London Underground set for Friday.



Chad Hunderby after breaking a Channel swimming set since 1978

23 minutes cut from Channel record

By John Goodbody, Sports News Correspondent

A 23-YEAR-OLD Californian yesterday broke the record for swimming the English Channel, restoring the dominance of the male sex in one of the world's most famous endurance feats.

7 hours 17 minutes for the 21-mile crossing from England to France, 23 minutes faster than the previous best set by another American, Penny Lee Dean, in 1978.

Hunderby said: "The English Channel is the most widely known marathon swim. It is special even for the Americans. However I decided to take it as it came,

because the Channel is a strange beast and you never quite know how the weather, water and tides will work out. I did not expect to do it, I just wanted to get across."

Although it was Hunderby's first solo Channel swim he was a member of the American six-man team that set a relay record of 6 hours 22 minutes in 1990.

European alert at airports as Indian plague spreads

By Marianne Curphey, Nigel Hawkes and Emma Wilkins

HEALTH officials were meeting last night to consider Britain's response to the threat of pneumonic plague being carried in by visitors from India as other European countries announced precautions at airports.

Fear of the spread of the most infectious and most fatal form of the disease rose as Indian authorities confirmed that it had been carried from Surat, 160 miles north of Bombay, to the capital Delhi, to Bombay, and as far east as Calcutta.

Two quarantine areas employing 30 doctors to screen all passengers from India have been set up at Germany's main international airport in Frankfurt, and similar precautions were put into effect at Charles de Gaulle and Orly airports in Paris. Raffaele Costa, the Italian Health Minister, ordered all aircraft arriving from India to be disinfected. Authorities in Copenhagen, Amsterdam, Vienna and Budapest said the situation was under review.

Up to 1,400 people arrive daily at Heathrow from Delhi on Air India, British Airways, Air Canada and Thai Airways. "There have been no reports of travellers coming to the UK with pneumonic plague," a health department spokeswoman said. BA said it was carrying on as normal on the advice of the Department of Health and the Foreign Office. However, immigration officials were ordered to be extra vigilant and Foreign Office staff in India were "reminded of their powers" to order medical checks on anyone who appeared ill when applying for a visa.

The Health Control Unit at Heathrow has reminded carriers operating from Delhi and Bombay of their duty "to make sure they do not take people on

board who are ill". The Foreign Office has also warned holidaymakers going to Delhi to be "vigilant" and is recommending travellers to avoid Surat and the state of Gujarat. Tour operators, guided by Foreign Office advice, are still sending clients to India.

The Indian High Commission in London has been deluged with calls from worried tourists, but emphasised that outbreaks of plague caused by news of the plague were more widespread than outbreaks of the illness.

The bacterium *Yersinia pestis* is normally transmitted by the rat flea, but in pneumonic plague the agent can be passed on by coughs and sneezes. Clothes, upholstery or

soft materials in contact with sufferers can harbour the infection for several months, and should be disinfected or burnt. The incubation period is between three and four days, after which symptoms of fever, headache, tiredness, swollen glands, a high temperature and a weak feeling, with pneumonia, quickly become apparent.

Without treatment, patients are likely to die in four or five days. Contacts should be quarantined for six days until it is clear that they are free of the disease. Antibiotics, used early enough, are effective.

The United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, Oman, Kuwait, Bahrain, and Qatar were the first to start screening passengers from India. Singapore has advised airlines to guard against the entry of plague and citizens are being advised to postpone visits to infected areas of India.

US soldier's Haiti suicide

The United States suffered its first casualty in Haiti yesterday when a soldier died from what appeared to be a self-inflicted gunshot wound. The Pentagon said that the soldier apparently committed suicide while his unit was securing a villa in Port-au-Prince.

Guns for cash, page 10

Jockey banned for six months

Kieran Fallon, the jockey, was yesterday banned from riding for six months after being found guilty of violent and improper conduct on a racecourse. The punishment handed out by the Jockey Club followed an incident at Beverley.

Page 44

Crime figures show overall fall but violence increases

By Stewart Tendler, Crime Correspondent

A POLITICAL row erupted last night as new crime figures for England and Wales showed the largest drop since 1954. Reported crime fell by 5.5 per cent overall, but violent and sexual offences rose sharply, according to Home Office figures.

Police recorded 5,365,400 crimes in the year to June 1994 — 311,500 fewer than the year before. The Government heralded the figures as "encouraging", but Labour called the "rise in violence" "highly worrying".

David Maclean, the Home Office minister, said the overall drop showed crime was "not bound irredeemably and irrevocably to rise. By targeting and crime prevention campaigns, we can make a difference. The message has to be that the fear of crime must now reduce. The fear of crime in many people is worse than the problem itself."

Burglaries were down

107,000 to 1.3 million — their largest fall for five years — while thefts were down 8 per cent to 2.6 million, and vehicle crime fell by 136,000 (9 per cent) to 1.4 million, the first decrease since 1989. Property crime, accounting for 93 per cent overall, fell by 6 per cent, from 5.3 million to 5 million.

However, these successes were tempered by the unyielding rise of violent offences. There was a 12 per cent increase in sexual offences and a 5 per cent rise in violent crimes. For the first time in four years there was an increase in sex attacks on men — 5,847 attacks (up 19 per cent). Robberies, mainly muggings, accounted for 19 per cent of violent crime — up by 5 per cent to 59,000, the smallest rise since 1988.

The overall fall in offences recorded by police is in sharp contrast with the latest findings by the British Crime Survey, however. The BCS figures, based on a biannual survey of 14,500 people aged 16 and over, show crime up by 18 per cent from 1991 to 1993. Police statistics for the same period reveal only a 7 per cent rise.

The increase is the highest in the survey's 13-year history. Researchers have not found a clear reason for the discrepancy with police figures, but note a growing reluctance to report crime to the authorities, which may be linked to higher insurance premiums.

Mr Maclean pointed out that in the last quarter of 1993, recorded crime dropped by 9 per cent — the largest fall since quarterly records began in 1975 — and said there was also a drop in the BCS rate of increase towards the end of 1993. His defence of the Home Office was continued on page 2, col 4.

Simon Jenkins, page 16

Labour unveils its new model economy

By Philip Webster and Jill Sherman

TONY Blair and Gordon Brown yesterday staked out the ground on which Labour will fight the next election by trying to reassure the middle classes that it has abandoned its tax and spending instincts and is now the party best suited to running a modern and dynamic market economy.

Paving the way for the most important of all Labour's modernisation shifts, Mr Blair and the Shadow Chancellor set out "flagship policies" designed to show that Labour would be just as tough as the Conservatives on inflation, pro-business and committed to a strong partnership between the public and private sectors. Mr Brown rejected "quick-fix solutions of tax, spend and borrow."

In two weighty speeches to an economic conference in London they raised misgivings on the left by what some saw as their ultra-cautious

approach to spending. But in a clear attempt to capture the centre ground and bury the high tax image that may have cost Labour successive elections, they announced that Labour would be setting inflation and growth targets to be achieved in government.

In a dramatic disavowal of old style Labour corporatism Mr Brown declared that the "old Labour language of tax, spend and borrow, nationalisation, state planning, isolationism, full-time jobs for life for men while women stay at home — is equally inappropriate to the demands of the future as it was to the needs of the past."

He added: "Our economic objective is to deliver the fastest levels of sustainable growth in order to end mass unemployment."

Continued on page 2, col 5

New strategy, page 9
Mark Seddon, page 16
Leading article, page 17

Police question GP who advised on NHS reforms

By Bill Frost

ONE of the architects of the Government's health reforms was being questioned by police last night over deception allegations. Dr Clive Froggatt, 46, secretary of the Conservative Medical Society and Health Reform Group and an adviser to Virginia Bottomley, the Health Secretary, was arrested in Cheltenham.

A statement issued on his behalf by the Medical Defence Union said: "Dr Froggatt was arrested this morning and is currently helping the Gloucestershire police with their inquiries."

A spokeswoman for Gloucestershire police said last night: "We are still questioning a 46-year-old Cheltenham

GP who was arrested this morning for alleged offences of deception."

Dr Kenneth Morpheus, one of the GP's colleagues, said: "I and my partners understand that Dr Froggatt has been arrested by the police in connection with matters arising from his own practice. We are arranging that Dr Froggatt takes a period of leave while the matters in question are resolved. In the circumstances it would not be appropriate for us to make any further comment."

Dr Froggatt is married with two children. His wife, Paula, is a JP sitting regularly at the town's magistrates court. Mrs Froggatt, a former air stewardess, was said to be "very shocked" by her husband's arrest. A friend at the couple's

home said she had gone to see the family solicitor.

A fortnight ago Dr Froggatt announced he was quitting medical practice to "export" the health reforms he helped devise. He attended the summit at Chequers where NHS reforms were first outlined to Margaret Thatcher in 1988 and has been acknowledged as one of those who masterminded the introduction of fund-holding GP practices and NHS trusts.

Dr Froggatt was due to address the United States Congress next month on how NHS reforms might work in America. A lecture tour is also being arranged for New Zealand, where there is considerable interest in the reforms.



Dr Froggatt: to retire from general practice



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Arts	31-33
Births, marriages, deaths	13
Bridge	6
Chess	6-44
Court and Social	18
Homes	35
Media	21
Obituaries	29
Times Two Crossword	44
Weather	22
TV & Radio	42-43

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Anger as Bottomley condones smacking



Bottomley: clashed with Penelope Leach

VIRGINIA Bottomley was at the centre of a new controversy over corporal punishment last night after suggesting that she would find it difficult to outlaw the practice because she smacked her own children.

Her remarks, at a conference on the family, infuriated the National Childminding Association which accused her of undervaluing the professional skills and commitment of thousands of childminders.

The anger flared after the Health Secretary defended her decision, reported last month, to clarify the law by grouping childminders with parents and other close relatives who have the right physically to discipline children in their care.

Mrs Bottomley is obliged to reword the legislation in the light of a High Court ruling earlier this year that overturned a council's decision to ban a childminder who had refused to give an undertaking not to

smack children in her care. According to the association, Mrs Bottomley, who has three children, stunned the conference by saying that she was very bad at introducing a policy she could not personally follow. As she had smacked her own children and had never met a person who had not slapped a naughty child, she would find it difficult to stop childminders doing likewise to children in their care.

In a clash with Penelope Leach, a writer on child care, Mrs Bottomley compared childminders to "much-loved grannies and aunts" who were allowed to smack children.

Ms Leach told the Health Secretary that it was hypocritical of her to praise childminders as the backbone of professional child care in one breath, then deny them that status in the next.

Gill Haynes, director of the NCA, said last night that her members would be horrified to learn that far

from valuing their skills. Mrs Bottomley thought that "good child care is a skill that just about anyone can manage".

Ms Haynes added: "No matter what Mrs Bottomley seems to think, this is not an issue of parents, grannies and aunts smacking children. It is about registered childminders — day-care professionals who want and need to work to the same high standards as every other early-years worker. It is about minimum standards of care for every child in a day-care setting."

Ms Haynes said it was odd when Government policy appeared to follow the personal practices of ministers. More than 50 child welfare organisations, many of which were represented at the "Confident Parents, Confident Children" conference, believed that physical punishment was bad practice.

Mrs Bottomley, who has responsibility for co-ordinating family policy

across Whitehall, struck a traditional note in her speech by declaring that broken homes could lead to delinquent children.

A strong and happy family gave children the indispensable roots, identity and bearings essential for them to grow up into confident and responsible adults. "Children denied such an upbringing can easily lose their sense of self-worth and self-respect," she said.

"From there it is but a short step to losing respect for their community and their surroundings, often laying the seeds of delinquency."

Mrs Bottomley attacked theorists who dismissed the traditional family — a married couple bringing up children together — as an anachronism.

She said this was folly. "Married couples give their children greater stability and identity. The tragedy of divorce is the damage and suffering it causes children."

Golden handshake may prompt curbs on universities

BY JOHN O'LEARY, EDUCATION EDITOR

MINISTERS are to consider tightening the rules on universities' use of public money after reports that Huddersfield University is to give its Vice-Chancellor a golden handshake worth up to £500,000.

A regular audit of Huddersfield's finances by the Higher Education Funding Council for England is to concentrate on unconfirmed allegations that Professor Kenneth Durrands is to receive three years' salary and a new car every two years after he takes early retirement in January. Twenty-seven other staff are taking early retirement without enhanced pensions.

The Education Department said yesterday that ministers would look at the implications for safeguarding public funds when they received the funding council's report. Gillian Shephard, the Education Secretary, is to address vice-chancellors at their annual meeting tomorrow, but is not expected to raise the issue.

Barry Sheerman, Labour MP for Huddersfield, de-

manded government action last month when details of the settlement were leaked to him. Tim Boswell, the higher education minister, replied that he was not in a position to intervene in the affairs of an autonomous institution.

Professor Durrands, 65, is said to be paid more than £120,000 a year, although the university will not be required to publish its vice-chancellor's salary until next year.

Oxford and Cambridge uni-

versities pay their vice-chancellors less than £100,000, as do most of the old universities. Many of the former polytechnics doubled their directors' salaries when they were freed from local authority control in 1989, and the going rate for their vice-chancellors is more than £100,000. Packages usually include pension arrangements, a house, car and private health insurance.

The funding council is to publish guidelines for governing councils in the next few months. Governors of new universities are appointed for life and are obliged only to follow their own rules and publish annual accounts. Their successors are chosen by the remaining governors.

David Trieman, general secretary of the Association of University Teachers, said: "Governors in the new universities can do things you could not get away with in a publicly quoted company, and there has been a positively masonic secrecy on who earns what."

Leading article, page 17

Shephard: department is awaiting audit report

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Crime figures down by 5.5%

Continued from page 1

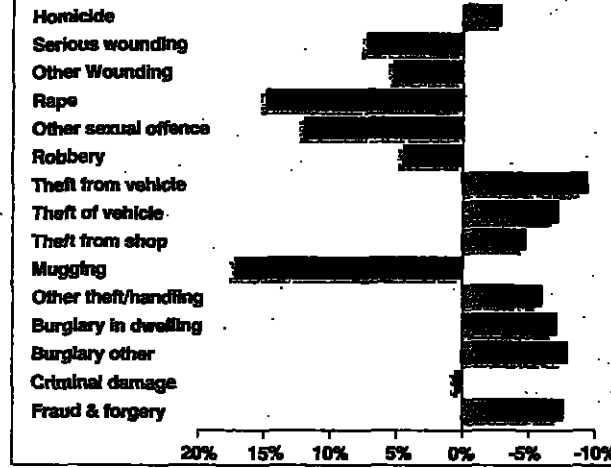
Office figures were shared by William Taylor, Commissioner of the City of London Police and chairman of the crime committee for the Association of Chief Police Officers, who insisted that BCS and police statistics were not comparable. Police accepted there was a measure of unreported crime, he said, but these were usually only minor offences. Victims reported more serious offences, because they wanted police to deal with them.

Mr Taylor said police partnerships with the public were paying off. "The fact that most forces reported a reduction in crimes compared with the previous 12 months is to be welcomed because it means that fewer people were victimised. I think the figures indicate some good news."

Labour, however, seized on the differences between the police and BCS figures. Alan Michael, shadow Home Office minister, said "the massive exercise in stage management and excessive concentration on the headline figure" could not disguise the

RISE AND FALL OF CRIME IN BRITAIN

England and Wales July 1993 to June 1994



rise in violence. "These [police] figures are for recorded crime. Also tucked away in today's announcement is the crucial information that real crime, reflected in the 1994 British Crime Survey, has been rising two and a half times faster."

"Crime levels are still unacceptably high, yet the Government has failed to develop a national strategy to prevent crime or to tackle crime and drug abuse."

Alan Beith, the Liberal Democrat Home Affairs spokesman, said: "These welcome reductions in crime figures show that the crime prevention work which the Home Secretary fails to back is bringing results. However, the increase in violent crime is worrying and shows there is no room for complacency."

The police figures showed that crime fell in 38 of the 43 forces in England and Wales, compared with eight the previous year. Fifteen forces reported drops of 5 per cent or more. The biggest drop was 18.1 per cent in the City of London, followed by 12.5 per cent in Dyfed Powys. The largest increase was 4.7 per cent in South Yorkshire.

Surrey showed the highest increase in violence, with a rise of 23 per cent. North Yorkshire showed the largest rise in robbery (51 per cent), and South Yorkshire had an 8 per cent rise in burglary. Almost every other force showed a drop. Almost every force also showed a fall in vehicle crime, with a 36 per cent fall in the City of London.

Simon Jenkins, page 16

New-look Labour reassures taxpayers

Continued from page 1

unemployment but without taking risks with inflation. Labour will not tolerate the kinds of inflationary and fiscal imprudence which have characterised the past 15 years."

Mr Brown announced that a Labour government would introduce tax incentives to encourage growth of long-term capital for industry. Under the new scheme incentives would be given to shareholders who committed funds to companies in return for an agreed investment plan.

Labour would also abolish Treasury rules which stopped government departments financing public projects from the private sector, said Mr

Brown. The left criticised the leadership for failing to spell out how Labour would fund short-term investment in skills and training to kick-start the economy.

Roger Berry, MP for Kingswood, criticised the Labour leadership for refusing to pledge more money for public services, or existing commitments such as full employment and a national minimum wage, and Peter Hain, MP for Neath, also said: "There is still a big question over how we will fund our full employment commitment and that wasn't answered today."

New strategy, page 9
Mark Seddon, page 16
Leading article, page 17

"JUST BOUGHT A NEW SHIRT AS I'M READING THE HARVEST LESSON IN CHURCH ON SUNDAY."

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Fall in donations hits cancer fund research

Job losses and cuts in cancer research were announced yesterday by the Imperial Cancer Research Fund because of a fall in donations. The cuts will help to meet a spending limit in 1995-96 of £54 million, £6.5 million less than planned. Closures include research units at Frenchay Hospital, Bristol, University College, London, the Royal London Hospital and the Institute of Child Health in London. About 30 of the fund's 1,600 posts may be cut.

Tourists hurt in crash

Three British holidaymakers, including a man aged 73, were recovering in hospital last night after a coach carrying 34 tourists collided with a lorry in Majorca and rolled down a bank. Police praised the bus driver for swerving to avoid a head-on collision. It is thought that the lorry driver, who died in the crash, may have been asleep at the wheel.

Clue to dolphin deaths

Twenty dolphins that battered themselves to death on rocks near Killala, Co Mayo, last week may have died because their leader suffered a heart attack. Marine biologists and veterinary pathologists found that the largest of the dead male dolphins had a perforation of the aortic valve. None of the others showed signs of any life-threatening illness.

Duchess seeks TV cash

THE Duchess of York is seeking to raise an estimated £2 million from the television industry to help her create a new animated children's series after the success of *Budgie the Little Helicopter*. She is proposing a series of 13 half-hour programmes set in a garden filled with fruit, flowers and vegetables that come to life as the main characters.

Boy dies on railway

The body of a boy aged 12 was discovered on a railway line in Reims, Kent, after a train driver raised the alarm. Bjorn Borg, from nearby Gillingham, was hit by a London-bound train yesterday. It is believed he may have fallen from a footbridge. Police are investigating but are not treating the incident as suspicious.

Bus crash Guide dies

Laura Cullen, a two-year-old Girl Guide who was seriously injured when a double-decker bus crashed into a bridge in Glasgow on September 18, killing four people, has died in hospital. Two guides, also aged ten, and two adult leaders were killed in the accident as the bus was on its way back to the city after a day out.

Inner city life worsens

A Church of England report today describes poverty, unemployment and a sense of powerlessness in the inner cities as being worse than a decade ago. Church projects are unable to plug the gaps in welfare provision. The survey, *Hope in the City*, says apathy is widespread and for many urban churches "the concern is with survival".

Bra firm wins hearing

Confess, a women's underwear company, was entitled to turn down men who applied for a job as a regional manager, a tribunal in Reading ruled yesterday. Les Rowson, 46, from Chester, alleged sexual discrimination. The firm said regional managers were frequently called upon to measure women in store fitting rooms.

Judge Geddes

We have been asked to point out that Judge Andrew Geddes's remarks (Valerie Grove interview, September 22) that "a sentence is not intended to reflect the seriousness of the consequences of what you have done" were expressly confined to the context in which they were made, namely a sentence on a lorry driver for causing death by dangerous driving. The judge went on to say that the sentence "was solely intended to reflect the degree of culpability involved".

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Questionnaire

Please complete in block capitals

I. Mr ☐ Mrs ☐ Ms ☐

Surname: _____

First Name: _____

Address: _____

Post Code: _____

Tel No. _____

I am seriously interested in meeting someone through Dateline.

2. Personal Information

Marital Status: Single ☐ Divorced ☐

Widowed ☐ Separated ☐

Religion: _____

Age: _____

Place of Birth: _____

Do you have children of your own?

Yes ☐ No ☐

If yes, how many live with you? _____

3. Your personal details

Height: _____

Build: slight ☐ medium ☐ large ☐

Hair colour: _____

Dress/Looks: casual ☐ fashionable ☐

elegant ☐ sporty ☐

4. Your work

Present job: _____

Self-employed ☐ employed ☐

civil servant ☐ manual worker ☐

part-time ☐ not working ☐

unemployed ☐ in-training ☐

Schooling

O levels / GCSE's ☐ A levels ☐

Further Education ☐ Polytechnic ☐

University ☐ Business School ☐

Other: _____

5. Your Personality

Warmhearted ☐ Fashionable ☐

Serious ☐ Practical ☐

Considerate ☐ Conventional ☐

Shy ☐ Reliable ☐

Romantic ☐ Adventurous ☐

6. How would people who know you best describe you?

always ready for a joke ☐

somewhat dreamy ☐

never has problems ☐

takes life a bit too seriously ☐

not easily upset ☐

always active ☐

Police try to piece together last 75 minutes of murdered woman's life

Girl, 14, arrives home to find mother strangled

By PAUL WILKINSON

A GIRL of 14 arrived home from school to find her mother strangled on the bathroom floor. Helen Pacey found the body of her mother, Julie, 38, when she let herself into the family home.

Minutes later her brother, Andrew, 11, walked in. "Neighbours heard the boy shouting: 'It's not my mummy, it's not my mummy'."

The children and their father, Andrew Pacey, a self-employed plumber, have since been under sedation at a relative's home near by in Grantham, Lincolnshire. Neighbours described the dead woman as "an elegant woman and a good mother" who appeared to have a full social life.

Lincolnshire Police appealed for witnesses who might have seen Mrs Pacey during the 75 minutes after she was last seen alive and the time her daughter arrived home from school on Monday. She had spent the morning with her parents, who also live in Grantham.

She left at about 2.30pm to drive the short distance in her

grey metallic Audi to the family home in a residential area of the town. Her body was found at 3.45pm.

The police spokesman said: "We are trying to piece together Mrs Pacey's last movements. It is vital we know where she went and who she saw." House-to-house inquiries by 60 officers have failed to bring to light any strange people or vehicles in the area.

Detectives believe Mrs Pacey might have known her killer. There was no indication of a forced entry to the house. "There appears to be no obvious motive for the killing. There are no obvious suspects. This woman had no apparent enemies at all," the spokesman said.

Mrs Pacey was found fully clothed and there were no signs of a violent struggle. She had not been sexually assaulted. Police are unsure if robbery was a motive as they have not yet been able to interview Mrs Pacey's family.

The police spokesman said that nothing appeared to be missing but they were waiting to talk to Mr Pacey.



Julie Pacey, described by neighbours as "an elegant woman and a good mother"



The Pacey home, where the murder took place

Company head jailed for plot to murder her former lover

By RICHARD DUCE

A BUSINESSWOMAN was jailed for seven years yesterday after plotting to destroy the career of her former lover and to have him murdered.

Elizabeth Litchfield, 56, had taken out a £200,000 insurance policy on her business partner, Anthony Peters, and hired her sales manager to carry out the contract killing. The sales manager, Brian Higgins, was jailed for 12 years at Norwich Crown Court for an attack that left Mr Peters with brain damage.

Mr Justice Garland told them: "This can scarcely be distinguished from murder. Mr Peters' skull was smashed in and his face covered in dried blood. He lay there for four days and — only because of the skill of Dr Kirkpatrick of Addenbrooke's Hospital — he survived and he will suffer brain damage for the rest of his life."

Litchfield, of Easton, near Huntingdon, and Higgins, 46, of March, Cambridgeshire, were both convicted of conspiracy to murder and Higgins of attempted murder. They denied the charges.

The court was told during the 18-day trial that Mr Peters, 47, was battered about the head after Litchfield and Higgins called at his home in Thurlton, Norfolk, on July 20, 1992, to discuss the liquidation of their communications company in Great Yarmouth. Litchfield was the company chairman and Mr Peters the technical director.

Timothy Barnes, QC, for the prosecution, said Litchfield had hoped to marry Mr Peters and set out to destroy him after their six-year affair ended. Four months before the attack she took out the insurance policy on Mr Peters and planned to share it with Higgins for carrying out the murder.

Earlier she attempted to ruin Mr Peters' business reputation by telling a big client that he had received corrupt gifts.

Mr Peters was not in court yesterday because of a hospital appointment. He said: "She has ruined my life. I used to be a businessman. Now I am a very devious, evil and dangerous woman. I rue the day I ever clapped eyes on her."

He once earned £30,000 a year but now relies on £44 a week in benefits.

The court was told that after Litchfield and Higgins heard no news of Mr Peters's body being discovered, they returned to his home and found him crawling around the blood-soaked floor with three fractures to his skull.

Higgins called an ambulance and Mr Peters was taken to the head injuries unit at Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge. Mr Peters had told the court that when he regained consciousness after ten days in hospital the last thing he could remember was sitting in his armchair in his



Litchfield: planned to collect £200,000 policy

Coroner praises wife who saved son after husband died in climbing fall

By A STAFF REPORTER

THE "immense courage" of a wife who helped her son to survive 40 hours in a freezing Alpine crevasse after her husband had died in her arms was praised by a coroner yesterday.

Stephen and Pamela Caswell had plunged 200ft into the crevasse with her son Simon, 16, while crossing a snow bridge on Mont Blanc in August.

David Bishop, coroner at the inquest in Plymouth, recorded a verdict of accidental death on Dr Caswell, who died from the effects of an open leg fracture.

Mr Bishop said what he had heard from Mrs Caswell, 40, was "a moving tale of human endeavour and endurance which sadly ended in tragedy."

Mrs Caswell showed immense courage and presence of mind when she realised her husband was dead, and that the survival of herself and her relatively young son depended on her actions.

But the coroner added that "as long as mankind strives to conquer nature in a hostile environment there must be inevitably a risk of injury and sometimes a risk of death."

The inquest was told that Dr Caswell, a geology lecturer at Plymouth University, and his wife and stepson had done all they reasonably could to minimise that risk.

Mr Bishop said the safety measure of roping together might have contributed to the fatal consequences of the snow bridge collapse. Mrs Caswell,

of Hartley, Plymouth, explained how, after reaching their target peak on the first day of the climb, the weather closed in as they tried to descend to mountaineers' lodge below. She had fallen into a snow and ice chimney, pulling her family after her.

Mrs Caswell said in a statement that when she regained consciousness after the fall she could not see her husband at first. "I thought he had probably not fallen but when I tried to move I realised the weight upon me was him. At that point a mixture of training, experience and the teacher in me took over, enabling quick and rational thinking."

She and her son dressed Dr Caswell and themselves in warm clothing, bandaged his

PC funded affair 'with union cash'

A MARRIED police constable used his trade union's accounts to fund an illicit affair with a woman officer, Birmingham Crown Court was told yesterday.

Constable John Clews, 46, paid for hotel rooms he shared with Constable Christine Ashby using a credit card issued to him by the Police Federation, it was alleged. Mr Clews, who was based in Birmingham, used hotels near the M1 for liaisons with Mrs Ashby, who was based in London, Paul Reid, for the prosecution, said.

Mr Clews, who has since left the force, was a board secretary and treasurer representing constables in the West Midlands branch of the Police Federation and had sole use of a Visa card. He denies six charges of falsifying federation accounts by claiming the hotel bills were for legitimate expenses.

Mr Reid said the affair was conducted during daytime bookings of hotel rooms in Northamptonshire. The bills ranged between £56 and £72 for five stays at the Crossroads Hotel, Weedon, and a further £40 stay at the Penguin Hotel in Daventry.

Mr Reid said: "This was an abuse of Police Federation money and an abuse of trust in him by that federation. The abuse was covered up quite effectively by him falsifying documents."

Mrs Ashby, in her 30s, said: "I told lies at first to cover up the affair. I didn't want my husband to find out." The trial continues.

Vicar commended for sitting tight to foil ram-raiders

By PAUL WILKINSON



Hughes: "I was more annoyed than scared"

A VICAR who faced down a gang of ram-raiders after shopowners in his parish had suffered a series of break-ins was commended for bravery yesterday. In an unlikely late-night stand-off, the Rev Alan Hughes confronted four hooded robbers as they were about to drive a vehicle through an off-limits window.

The former Coldstream Guardsman, angered by the earlier raids in his parish at Kirkmoorside, North Yorkshire, put his car in their way and sat impassive in the locked vehicle despite abuse and threats of violence. When the raiders eventually gave up and drove off he followed them, but the gang disappeared.

Yesterday Mr Hughes, 48, was awarded a Chief Constable's commendation for his bravery during the incident a year ago in the parish where he has worked for the past ten years. Superintendent Keith Bowskill said: "He showed commendable courage and presence of mind with his actions."

Mr Hughes is padre of the Queen's Own Yeomanry and was returning from a regimental dinner when he saw the gang in two cars driving the wrong way up a one-way street. He stopped to call the police before following them.

When they pulled up outside the off-limits 500yds from his vicarage he knew what was about to happen. "I was determined they wouldn't hit one of our shops again. Other people in the town have been attacked this way and I set out to protect my parishioners. I confronted them in my car and we had what I

suppose was a Mexican stand-off. I blocked their way and sat tight. I was more annoyed than scared, so I just sat there facing the men in masks."

The gang pulled close to his car, put their headlights on full beam and threatened him. "It wasn't a question of preaching to them, it got down to some pretty tough barrack-room language."

Mr Hughes, a 15-stone six-footer, made no attempt to grab any of his abusers. "I knew if it came to fistfights the law is sometimes weighed against the vigilante," he said.

Police believe the raiders were one of a number of gangs operating out of Teesside, 25 miles away. They steal large powerful vehicles to smash their way into commercial premises. None of the raiders has yet been arrested.

SATURDAY IN THE TIMES

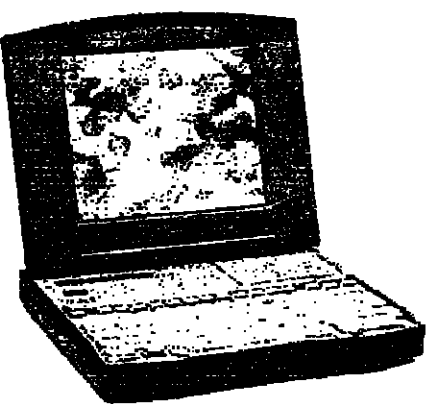


Wicked woman
CHARLES BREMNER MEETS CHARLOTTE RAMPLING IN THE **MAGAZINE**
TWO CAN TRAVEL AS CHEAPLY AS ONE: USA TRAVEL OFFER IN **WEEKEND**

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Mental care crisis 'puts public and patients at risk'

By JEREMY LAURANCE, HEALTH SERVICES CORRESPONDENT

THE safety of patients and the public is being put at risk by the crisis in mental health services in London, an official report said yesterday.

Psychiatric wards are overfull and vulnerable patients are being discharged prematurely to make way for others, the Government-appointed Mental Health Task Force says. The report provides the first official recognition of the inadequate care given to the seriously mentally ill in London and that the closure of mental hospitals must be halted until health authorities are

certain that "effective alternative services" are available.

"Some patients with severe and chronic mental disabilities are being discharged without adequate supervision or the provision necessary to meet their housing, social and health needs," it says. "This could increase risk not only to public safety but also to the safety of the individuals concerned."

The report, commissioned by Virginia Bottomley, the Health Secretary, last February, echoes findings by the Royal College of Psychiatrists,

the Mental Health Act Commission and a series of inquiries which have highlighted the state of mental health services in London and other inner cities. It paints a bleak picture of patients whose lives have suffered "major disruption" as a result of their illness but whose needs have been neglected. It notes examples of good practice but says most health authorities do not know how many severely mentally ill people they are responsible for, fail to collaborate with other agencies and fail to show a "clear, public commitment" to patients.

It says there is an urgent need to build community services in many health authorities, which will require new investment, and extra acute psychiatric beds in some. It concludes that, while some changes can be made quickly, "more lasting progress will depend on sustained priority being given to this area."

Alan Langlands, chief executive of the NHS, said the report was "not damning but honest". Better management could make improvements.

It was possible that similar situations existed elsewhere in the country, he said. The Government had increased funding for the mentally ill and he hoped it would continue to do so, not just in London but in all inner cities.

Peter Kennedy, co-leader of the taskforce and chief executive of York Health Services NHS Trust, said that health authorities were spending £1 million a year sending patients to private hospitals hundreds of miles outside the capital because no NHS beds were available. That money could be better spent within their own boroughs, he said. "It is possible to buy a lot of services for a £1 million."

Labour said that the number of beds for the mentally ill had fallen by 36 per cent since 1978. "Whilst care in the community is fine in principle it is still poor in practice. The scale of the Government's bed closure programme has outstripped the ability of the community to provide adequate, co-ordinated care."

Maudsley team leads world in research work

By NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

THE Institute of Psychiatry at London's Maudsley Hospital is the most effective medical research organisation in the world, according to figures published by an American institute.

Science Watch, the journal of the Philadelphia-based Institute for Scientific Information, measured the impact of research work in health care published by universities and research bodies around the world between 1981 and 1993. The rating was made by counting the number of times each paper published by each institution was cited by other researchers.

The Institute of Psychiatry's total of published papers, at 407, fell far short of Harvard University, the top scorer, at 1,572, but the quality was much higher. On average, each of the institute's papers was cited by 11.95 other researchers, which put it well ahead of any competition.

Second was the Rand Corporation, from California,

with 10.37 citations per paper. Yale scored 5.13, and Harvard 5.32.

Professor Stuart Checkley, dean of the institute, said the endorsement would strengthen its appeal for investment in new research. "The report could not have come at a better time. The fact that the institute has established itself as a world-class player has meant that we have attracted a growth in research funding of 10 per cent a year."

"However, there is a danger of research being held up as we are desperately short of space," he said.

Professor David Goldberg, the institute's director of research and development, said: "The fact that our health care research has the greatest impact in the world backs up our case for urgent investment in infrastructure."

Among the most popular papers were studies of passive smoking and a project on depression.



Gerald Sword, who sang the lead: "I had stress factor stretched to the limit"

Two's company on stage for Tosca understudies

By DALYA ALBERGE, ARTS CORRESPONDENT

IT WAS the moment all understudies pray for — and on this occasion two lots of prayers were answered. When two of the English National Opera's leading lights fell ill on Saturday night, their understudies rose to the challenge and over-night fame.

At 6.15pm on Saturday, just over an hour before the curtain rose on *Tosca*, the news came that David Rendall, who was to sing the part of Cavaradossi, had suffered an asthma attack. Gerald Sword's moment had come.

"I was just about to put my mouth to a bowl of soup," he said. "The call came over the Tannoy. It was like a Hollywood movie. My little heart went thump. My soup dribbled into the bowl... I had the stress factor stretched to the limit." He went to the dressing-room, looked in the mirror and thought: "Yeah, you can do it." After the first aria, both he and the audience knew he could.



Heath-Welch: will give three performances

Anne Heath-Welch, an American soprano, stepped

into Rosalind Plowright's shoes in the title role. She had sung the role with Welsh National Opera, but this was her first time in English. She will be appearing for the next two performances, tonight and Friday.

An understudy's job is often seen as the most thankless in the theatre, but in winter, the season of colds and throat infections, they come into their own. In this case, neither of the ENO's newest stars had a single session on stage. They practised in a tiny area in the terrace bar.

Mr Sword, 38, who was born in Dundee and grew up in New Zealand, has taken various leading roles with the Australian Opera. He came to opera eight years ago, training himself through private tuition, after a career in the pop world and three hit records.

All right on the night, page 31

Operas in doubt after chorus votes to strike

By GILLIAN BOWDITCH, SCOTLAND CORRESPONDENT

SCOTTISH Opera's autumn season has been put in jeopardy after the chorus voted to take strike action over a 2.6 per cent pay offer.

The new season starts on Sunday and the chorus is due to make its first appearance on Friday, October 7, in a new production of Donizetti's *Mary Stuart*.

At present the 34 chorus members are attending rehearsals but they have voted overwhelmingly to reject the pay offer. There has been no indication of when industrial action might take place.

The chorus members' salaries are between £15,000 and £18,000, depending on how long they have been with the company. They feel that their pay has fallen behind in recent years and believe that they must take a stand to stop further erosion.

Scottish Opera said that the productions of *Mary Stuart* and the new production of *Fidelio*, which are expected to be sold out, would go ahead as planned. "It's very much business as usual. We are hoping that an amicable settlement can be reached."

Scottish Opera's budget from the Scottish Arts Council was frozen this year at £4.5 million and the company has said there is no spare cash. In recent years costs have been cut, administration staff have had their pay frozen and the organisation says there is no room for further savings to meet the singers' demands.

The chorus members, whose contracts forbid them to talk to the press, are demanding parity with Scottish Opera's orchestra. The opera said that, after overtime was taken into account, there was little difference between the salaries of musicians and singers. Chorus members receive overtime pay after they have attended ten sessions a week, including rehearsals.

Lorne Boswell, Equity's Scottish secretary, was on his way back from Ireland yesterday and was unavailable to say what action the union planned to take.

Scottish Opera is one of the highest-funded arts organisations in Scotland because of the expense of mounting an opera season.



Turnbull: "learnt reality of God's forgiveness"

Bishop tells of penitence over gross indecency

By RUTH GLEDHILL, RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

THE Bishop of Durham yesterday issued a brief statement denying that he was or ever had been a homosexual.

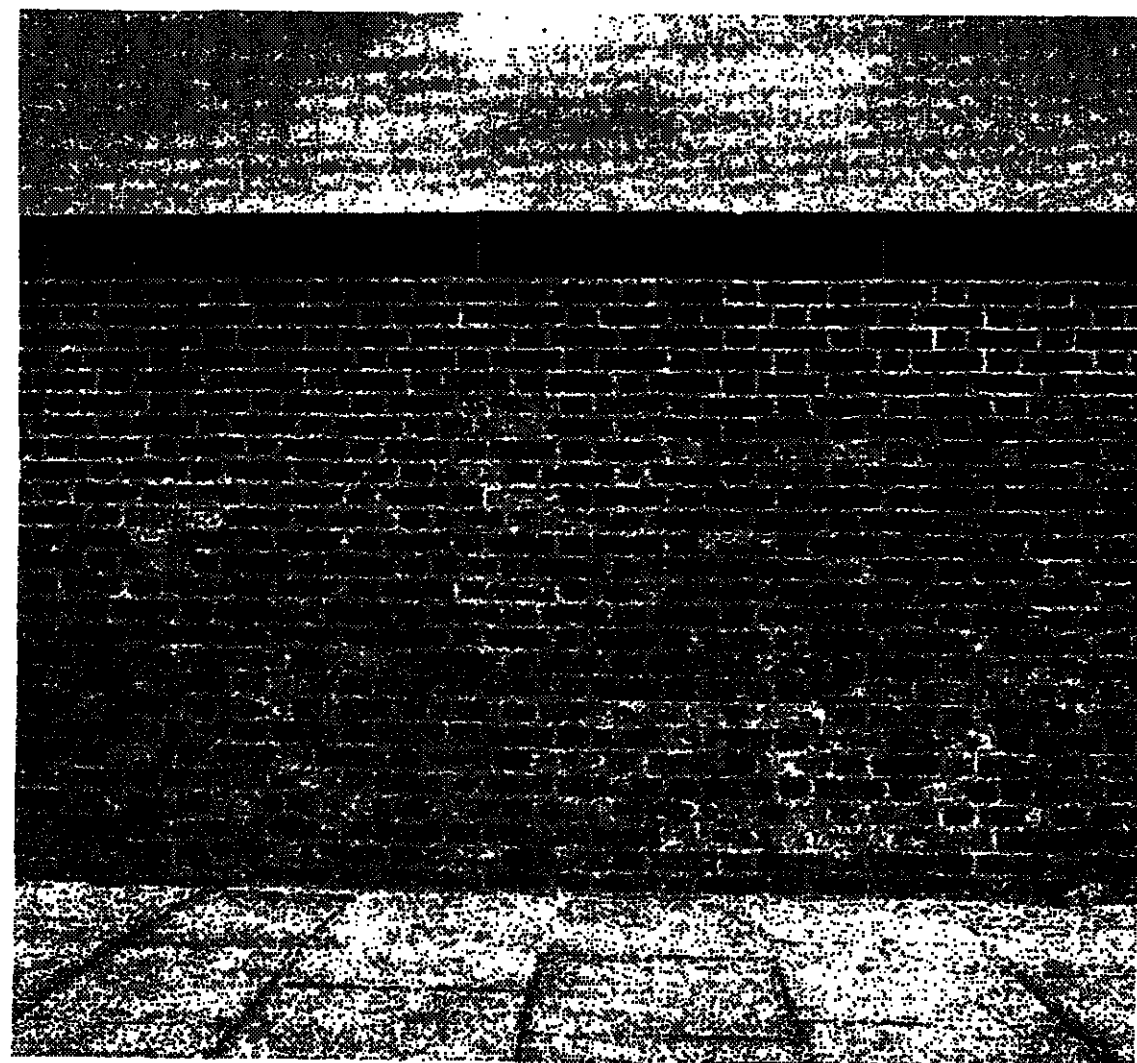
The Right Rev. Michael Turnbull, fourth most senior in the Church of England's hierarchy and who recently said homosexual clergy members were incompatible with the paid ministry, talked of his penitence for an act of gross indecency 26 years ago.

The bishop, who was domestic chaplain to the Archbishop of York at the time, was convicted of gross indecency and given a 12-month conditional discharge by Hull magistrates. Bishop Turnbull, 58, took over in Durham from Dr David Jenkins earlier this year and is due to be enthroned on October 22.

He said: "Some of the details recently reported in the media are inaccurate but that doesn't lessen the penitence I feel."

"Long ago, I learnt the reality of God's forgiveness and I constantly turn to Him for the renewal of my life and my work. I am equally sorry for the hurt which this has caused to many who have supported me over the years."

The Rev Richard Kirker, general secretary of the Lesbian and Gay Christian Movement, said: "This makes the bishop's position even less tenable. The fact that he was married at the time doesn't make him any more or any less of a homosexual than he may or may not be now."



24 hours ago Dave loves Sue.

And he probably still does, but thanks to the local cleansing service, Lewisham DIRECTeam, the fact is no longer plastered all over the wall. The team promise to get rid of any graffiti within twenty four hours of it being reported. Dog fouling is also seen to with the same efficiency.

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Director: David Hinton Producer: David Stacey

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A DV8 Films production in association with RM Arts

Television Documentary

Special Prize 'Black Daisies for the Bride'

by Tony Harrison

Director: Peter Symes

Producer: Fiona Finlay

Executive producer: George Faber



TELEVISION AT ITS BEST

Woolf set to give civil cases higher priority

By FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

RADICAL proposals for cutting the costs of civil justice, in which judges would work in teams on cases rather than by themselves, were outlined by Lord Woolf yesterday. The law lord, who has been appointed by the Lord Chancellor to carry out a review of civil litigation, warned that judges might "have to work rather differently from the way they have done in the past".

He told a conference at the Inner Temple in London that judges in the past had "all tended to be rather too isolated from the person doing the same task at a different level". Instead, he envisaged judges of different seniority being appointed as part of a "floating team" to handle cases. This might consist of a High Court judge when out on circuit, a nominated circuit judge and a district judge.

Lord Woolf said: "They would all work together and produce a consistent approach to the management of cases, not only in a particular area but consistent with what is happening in other parts of the country."

He said he saw judges playing a "central role" in managing cases and in taking over from lawyers the job of dictating the pace of court proceedings. Under his reforms, a dispute would be allocated to a team and one judge in that team would manage the case, according to its complexity.

"He could then delegate the case or a part of it to another member of the team, higher or

lower, if a particular aspect required it, so you would have continuity of management."

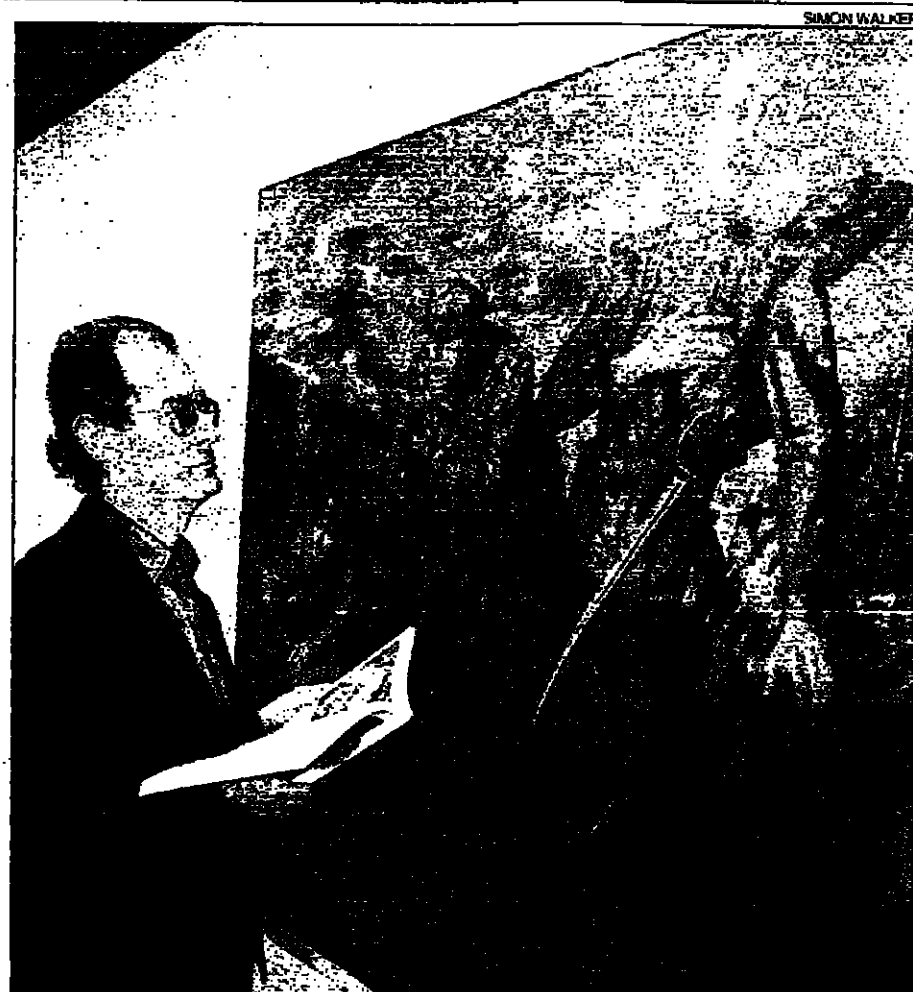
Lord Woolf, who was talking to some 150 judges and lawyers at the conference, said that, at present, a litigant would take a dispute to a district judge or a master in chambers. If he or she did not like the ruling, they would just go on up to the next level. Under his proposals, cases would be better matched to the level of judge.

"If we go on expanding the judiciary, there is a very real danger that it would undermine their skills and that could be very damaging to our system," he said.

Lord Woolf, whose first report is due next year, also attacked the low priority given by the justice system to civil disputes, which took second place to criminal cases and family disputes. He said: "Both crime and family work are very important, but they can't always take priority over civil justice."

Lord Woolf said there would need to be a new ethos for civil justice as well as new structures, and a recognition that "the cost of litigation and the speed of litigation is very much part of the justice of litigation".

People should have the right to take their grievances direct to the European Court of Justice, a law lord said yesterday. Lord Slynn also said that people should be awarded legal aid for such cases on the same basis as in their home courts.



Richard Cork, art critic of *The Times*, with Kuzma Petrov Vodkin's "On the Firing Line", one of the paintings on show at the Barbican Centre

Exhibition echoes bitter truth of war

Artists who led march from pride to horror

By ANNE McELVOY

TO WALK through the exhibition *Avant Garde Art and the Great War*, which opened at the Barbican Centre, London, last night, is to journey in the steps of the greatest artists of a rich and varied period. It is also a tour of the single subject of war and follows the artists' perceptions of it, first in fascination, then in fascinated horror and finally in the unalloyed horror of revulsion and guilt.

Assembled by Richard Cork, art critic of *The Times*, the exhibition is a summation of artistic endeavour throughout Europe and America by artists fighting at the front or observing the dismemberment of Europe through the perspectives of the family and society.

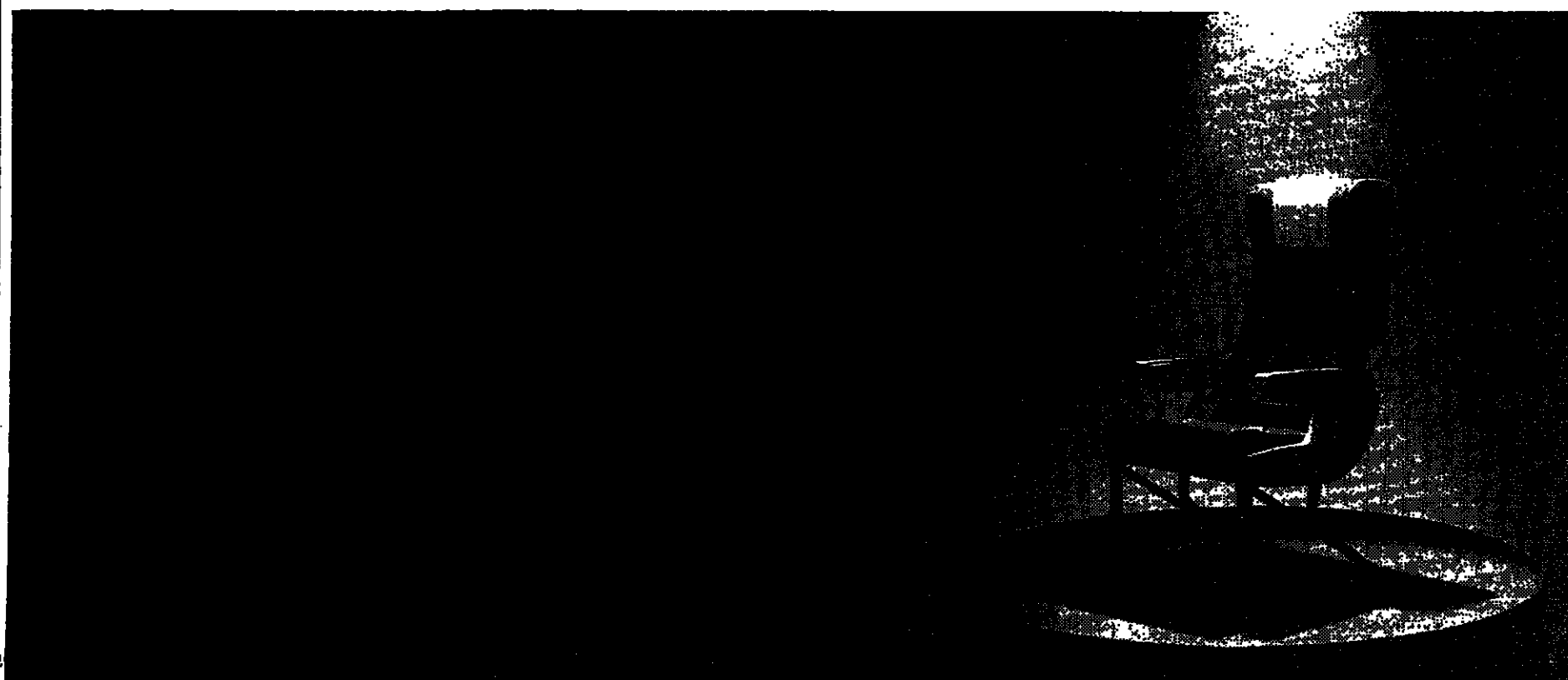
The great powers are represented, with key works by Otto Dix, Paul Nash and Marc Chagall. But the exhibition bursts the confines of previous examina-

tions, too often compartmentalised by date or nation. Cork's aim is to show the entire sweep of the war. The core theme is the recognition, by artists of sundry styles and ideological convictions, of what the British war artist Paul Nash called "a bitter truth" of the battlefields. In numb depictions of destruction, such as "Void" and "Wire", Nash encapsulated the universal tragedy from the role of detached observer, blasting home in paint the news that was "unspeakable, godless, hopeless".

The enthusiasm unleashed by the outbreak of war in 1914 was shared by artists as diverse as Dix, whose pugnacious self-portrait on call-up exudes pride in the manliness of martial endeavour, and Futurists like the Italian Giacomo Balla, whose cheerful bellicosity in 1915 yields in the course of the conflict to a mood of

bowled, elegiac reflection three years later. One of the most startling transitions charted here is that of Christopher Nevins, the only English Futurist, whose unbounded enthusiasm for the war led him to create in 1916 "A Bursting Shell", a psychedelic celebration of the suddenness of violence and to declare that there was "no beauty, except in strife". One year later — after working as an ambulance driver in the trenches, he was painting slumped soldiers, left dying and dead like Wilfred Owen's "those who die as cattle", in a derelict shed in France.

The numbers of famous German Expressionists and the British contribution have been kept in check to make room for more unusual contributions, and this is a rare chance to see the war through American eyes in the fine duo of paintings by George Bellows.



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TODAY is Day Two on your blue card, of our Countdown word game which offers you the chance to win up to £1,000 every weekday. There are two games to play each day — the TV game, played in conjunction with Channel 4's *Countdown*, and *The Times* game — each offering a prize of £500. If a game has no winner, the unclaimed prize is added to the next day's prize.

To play both games you will need your weekly *Countdown* game card, which you will find in *The Times* every Tuesday.

THE TV GAME
To play, tune in to *Countdown* on Channel 4 at 4.30pm today and you have six chances of winning or sharing the £500 prize.

In each of the six rounds where letters are drawn on a card, contestants will select nine letters. Check these against the eight letters printed for the same TV round on your game card (ie, by excluding the rounds where numbers are drawn). Round 5 on TV will equate to word Round 4 on your card). If you can match all eight letters, in any one round, in any order, you have won that round and can claim a share of today's £500. NB: if you have the same letter repeated in any one row on your card, it can only be crossed off if that letter appears the same number of times on that TV round.

To claim the TV prize, phone our hotline on 091-514 0665 between 5pm and 8pm today. You must have your game card with you. If there is more than one valid claim, the prize will be divided among the winners.

THE TIMES GAME
On your *Countdown* card there are five daily games. Each has five rounds with nine spaces which include either five or six consonants which will vary from card to card. Printed right is a selection of vowels which should be placed

on to your game card in the spaces provided. Rearrange the nine letters to form five words (using as many letters as possible to form one word for each round) and write your solution in the empty boxes. Now, add up the letters. If the total equals or is greater than the target number below, you can claim. If more than one person equals or breaks today's target number, the person with the highest score wins the £500 daily prize.

To claim *The Times* prize, phone our hotline on 091-514 4777 between 4pm and 8pm today. You must have your card with you. In the event of more

THE TIMES

Today's Vowels
Round 1 A I I A
Round 2 A I E
Round 3 E I I I
Round 4 U I E A
Round 5 E U E
Target Number: 36

than one valid claim, the prize will be divided among the winners.

For the purpose of judging, *The Concise Oxford Dictionary*, New Edition for the 1990s will be the sole reference, and the rules for *Countdown* will apply. In all matters the Editor's decision will be final. If your copy of *The Times* did not contain a game card, contact your newsagent or call 071-867 0464.

Countdown game devised by Armand Jammot

4

CHANNEL FOUR TELEVISION
COUNTDOWN is a registered trade mark of Yorkshire Television Ltd

COUNTDOWN PRIZEWINNERS

The £500 Day Five *Times* game prize was shared by four winners with 40 letters each. They are: Mrs Pat Carter of Rochdale, Lancashire; Mrs Mary Sheehan of Ilford, Essex; Mr Derek Hall of Dunfermline, Scotland; and Mrs Winty Thorton of Galashiels, Selkirkshire. Mrs Winty Thorton, who is retired, had the following consonants on her card and by using the vowels for Day Five made the following five words.

Round 1: M D R W N F (E A E) FREEDMAN
Round 2: B N V L C (E A A E) BALANCE
Round 3: T C R R N V (E O E) CONVERTER
Round 4: S R S R T (O I U E) SORRIEST
Round 5: P D P Y M L (O O I) POLYPOID

There is no winner for Day Five of the TV game. The £500 prize is carried forward so that yesterday's TV game prize was worth £1,000.

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New operation changes face of plastic surgery

By JEREMY LAURANCE, HEALTH SERVICES CORRESPONDENT

A NEW keyhole technique for facelifts allows surgeons to smooth away wrinkles almost invisibly through tiny incisions.

The technique leaves only small scars yet can change a person's appearance more dramatically than a conventional operation, according to Barry Jones, a consultant cranio-facial surgeon, who has introduced the method from America. "There are no facial

scars and it allows a more dramatic re-positioning of the soft tissues of the face. It can take ten years off a patient," Mr Jones, of Great Ormond Street Hospital, London, said.

"With the traditional operation the patient looks better but not different. With this technique they can, if they want to, be made to look different."

Mr Jones has carried out the surgery on 15 patients at the

Wellington Hospital, St John's Wood. A browlift takes about 45 minutes and costs £2,000 to £2,500. A facelift takes three to four hours and costs £4,000.

For a browlift, instead of the traditional alic-band cut — an ear-to-ear incision running across the top of the head behind the hairline — the new technique requires only three small cuts, each one centimetre long, on the top of the head. A full facelift re-

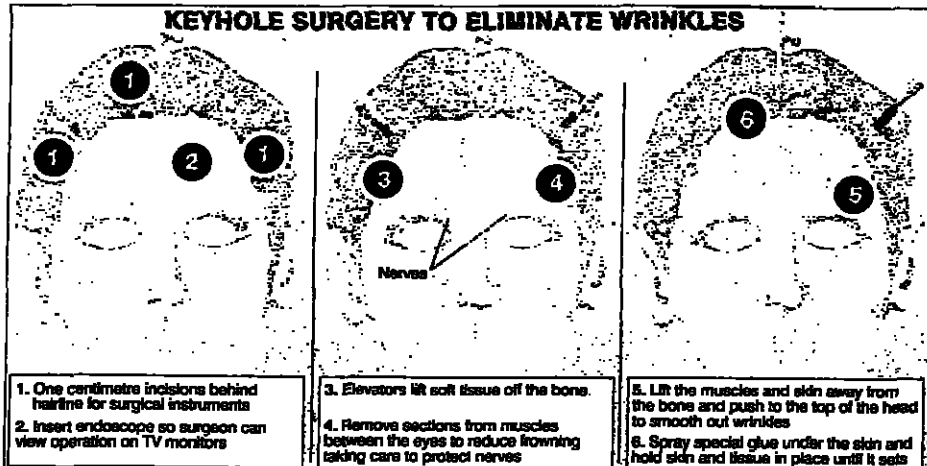
quires additional incisions at the temples, inside the upper lip and, often, around the eyelids.

An endoscope, a tiny camera which transmits pictures to a monitor, is inserted into the central incision and the surgeon, working from the screen, dissects the tissues down to the bone.

To hold the face in its new position, Mr Jones uses an aerosol glue sprayed under the scalp.

Mr Jones, secretary of the British Association of Aesthetic Plastic Surgeons, said: "The facelift is suitable for relatively younger patients of about 45 for whom the main problem is sagging of the muscles and fat, not excess skin. But the browlift can be performed on anybody."

David Herbert, a plastic surgeon at the Cromwell Clinic in Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire, who has used the technique on eight patients, said: "When you minimally invade the tissues you are not doing as much damage and you get a better overall result and quicker recovery."



The Jaguar XJR, a supercharged 4.0 litre sports version of the new series that is to be unveiled today

Jaguar pins hopes on new model

By KEVIN EASON, MOTORING CORRESPONDENT

JAGUAR today launches the car that will help to determine whether millions of pounds of new investment come to Britain. The new XJ saloons arrive in showrooms with demand so great that they are sold out until the New Year.

The manufacturer needs the model to be a success to convince executives at Ford, its American parent, that all future Jaguars should be built in Britain and not abroad. Jaguar has cost Ford about £3.4 billion since it bought the British company in 1989.

The XJ range cost £300 million to develop as part of a £1 billion investment programme over five years and there is a replacement for the XJS sports car to come. But Ford has not decided whether Jaguar's headquarters at Browns Lane, Coventry, will build a new medium-size car, which could instead be made in the United States.

The traditional transport of government ministers and royalty, XJ saloons are being test-driven by the Civil Service and have been supplied to the royal family. A long-wheelbase limousine version is also expected to be

supplied for use by the Prime Minister. Prices start at under £30,000 for the basic 3.2 litre XJ6. The most expensive is the £60,000 Daimler Double Six, using Jaguar's traditional V12 engine, but there is also a new sports version, the XJR, a 155mph saloon that has a new supercharged 4.0 litre engine.

Orders have convinced Nick Scheide, Jaguar's chairman, that assembly lines can be speeded up to produce 38,000 cars next year compared with 32,000 this year. That rate of production will put Jaguar back on course for profit after six years of losses, running up a deficit of nearly £800 million.

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DORMER on BRIDGE

By ALBERT DORMER, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

♠7	♥A87	♦K888	♣AKQ104
♠QJ1054	♥J532	♦J7	♣83
♠K63	♥86	♦Q10532	♣762
♠A882	♥KQ104	♦A4	♣J95
♠10	♥19	♦36	♣39
♠29	♥36	♦39	♣36
♠36	♥39	♦36	♣39
♠39	♥36	♦39	♣36

North's jump to 3♥ with only three trumps was a sound move: a reverse bid of 2♥ leads to a much safer slam in clubs. At 6♥, how should South play? **Solution:** The temptation is to ruff a spade and try to draw trumps: it seems that you have plenty of winners. However, this plan succeeds only if trumps behave. As the cards lie, West will have the whip hand and South will lose a trump trick and two spades. The best line is to win the opening lead and duck a round of trumps. This is often good play when the loss of a trump trick can be accepted. On any return South can ruff a spade in dummy, draw trumps and claim twelve tricks. A bid of 2♥ on the second round, suggesting a likely 16-point hand and a 5-4 pattern, would have been a better move on North's hand. South might then bid 2♠, "fourth suit forcing". North continues with 3♥ and South can then picture a perfect fit. To reach 7♥ is difficult, but South should not stop short of 6♥.

KEENE on CHESS

By RAYMOND KEENE, CHESS CORRESPONDENT

Short routed

Round five of the PCA-World Championship semi-final in Linares, Spain, proved another black day for the British contingent. Short lost in just 26 moves in round five to the American grandmaster Gata Kamsky.

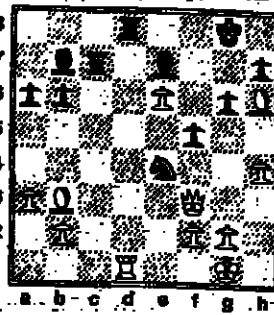
Michael Adams lost in 53 moves against the Indian grandmaster Viswanathan Anand. The respective scores are now: Anand 4.5 Adams 0.5 and Kamsky 4 Short 1.

White: Gata Kamsky
Black: Nigel Short

Nimzo-Indian Defence

1. d4 Nf6
2. c4 e5
3. Nc3 Bb4
4. Nf3 Bxc3
5. Bxc3 Nd4
6. Nge2 cxd4
7. exd4 d5
8. cxd5 Nxd5
9. d4 Nf6
10. Nf3 Bb4
11. Bb2 Bxc3
12. Bc2 Rb8
13. Qd3 g6
14. Bh6 Bg7
15. Rd1 Bb7
16. Rf1 Rf8
17. Bb3 Bb8
18. Nf3 Rf7
19. Qc3 Nf6
20. Nf5 Nf7
21. h4 Nf6
22. Nf6+ Nd6
23. d5 Nxe4
24. dxe6 Bf6
25. Rd3 Rf8
26. Rf1 Black resigns

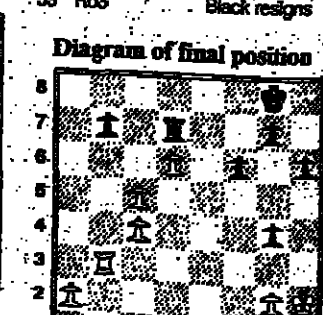
Diagram of final position



White: Viswanathan Anand
Black: Michael Adams
Caro-Kann Defence

1. e4 e5
2. d4 d5
3. Nc3 Nf6
4. Nf3 Bb4
5. Ng3 Bg6
6. Nf5 Nd7
7. h4 h6
8. h5 Bb7
9. Bc3 Bxc3
10. Qxc3 Bb4
11. Bb2 Bxc3
12. Bc2 Rb8
13. Qd3 g6
14. Bh6 Bg7
15. Rd1 Bb7
16. Rf1 Rf8
17. Bb3 Bb8
18. Nf3 Rf7
19. Qc3 Nf6
20. Nf5 Nf7
21. h4 Nf6
22. Nf6+ Nd6
23. d5 Nxe4
24. dxe6 Bf6
25. Rd3 Rf8
26. Rf1 Black resigns

Diagram of final position



Winning Move, page 44

"The horrors you inflicted on your victims beggared description"

Youth given life terms for attacks on elderly

By Richard Duce

A TEENAGE drug addict who carried out a series of violent attacks on the elderly, including the murder of an 88-year-old spinster, was ordered yesterday to be detained indefinitely and was given eight life sentences.

Mr Justice Hidden told Francis Casey, who preyed on more than 60 old people: "You are a very dangerous and evil young man. The horrors you inflicted on your victims were appalling and beggared description."

An Old Bailey jury was told that Casey, 18, was high on crack cocaine when he broke into the home of Lillian Nodley, 88, and subjected her to a savage attack. He stamped on her face, leaving the imprint of his plimsoll, and broke 13 of her ribs as he repeatedly stamped on her chest.

Casey also attacked Miss Nodley's sister Phoebe, 84, at their home in Islington, north London, but she survived.

The murderous attack was the culmination of a 20-day crime spree by Casey, who singled out old people for

offences of robbery, sexual assault and burglary. The judge told him: "You are a great danger to the public. You picked out as targets for your crimes the elderly and aged. If they are also infirm, fragile and ill, that does not matter a scrap to you. Your personality combines enjoyment of violence with the sexual abuse of elderly women and a compulsive greed for money to feed your addiction."

Casey, who had admitted attacking the Nodley sisters, was convicted of murdering the older woman and then admitted offences of robbery and assault against seven other pensioners and the burglary of an eighth.

The court was told that Casey, from an itinerant Irish family, had turned to crime at the age of 12 and had attacked at least 60 people. Some of his victims have since died and police believe the lives of at least three people were shortened after he terrorised them.

Others will probably never forget. One relative whose aunt, 74, was beaten by Casey and has now moved from her



Francis Casey, centre, murdered Lillian Nodley, bottom left, by stamping on her, and attacked some 60 others. His victims included Lillian Nodley's sister Phoebe, above left, Jessica Harjette, above right, and Arthur Breeze



home, said after the hearing yesterday: "Life should mean life. She is very frail and this has caused distress to the whole family."

David Calvert-Smith, for the prosecution, told the court that, earlier on the day he murdered Miss Nodley, Casey was arrested in another pensioner's home. He claimed that he was only 13, gave a false name and was bailed into the care of two social workers, from whom he es-

caped by jumping from a car.

He went on to commit a violent robbery on an elderly man while still wearing the boiler suit and plimsolls the police had issued to him. When he broke into the Nodley's home he was still wearing the plimsolls.

Casey originally faced charges alleging a total of 20 victims in the series of raids last November. But victims have since died or were too frail to give evidence in dis-

puted cases, so the prosecution offered no evidence "in these exceptional circumstances".

The judge said he had concluded that Casey, if at liberty, would probably reoffend and presented a grave danger to the public.

Casey had smirked as he first walked into the dock to answer the charges against him, but a psychiatrist called by the defence said the grin was a constant nervous smile which is a cover for his

shame. Before Casey was led to cells, Mr Justice Hidden told him: "If shame you feel, then shame you should feel."

Detective Superintendent John Farley, now retired after leading the search for Miss Nodley's killer, said: "Some of the younger officers involved in this case had never seen such gratuitous violence. The victims were treated horrendously. We realised early on we were dealing with a very dangerous criminal."

Islands celebrate saving of lifeline ferry service

By Gillian Bowditch, Scotland Correspondent

THE ferry service that provides a vital lifeline to 23 of Scotland's remotest islands looks set to escape privatisation. Caledonian MacBrayne has been the subject of a report by Government consultants which is expected to recommend that the Treasury continues its £7 million subsidy.

The Scottish Office said yesterday that speculation about the future of the company was premature but an announcement was due soon. Islanders and CalMac staff were celebrating yesterday after a leak of the report disclosed that the company's services were safe.

Islanders and the company's management have fought to convince the Government not to tamper with the existing

service. They feared that any attempt to privatise the business or put routes out to tender would lead to a huge rise in ferry prices or to the closure of many of the non-profitable routes.

The islanders rely on CalMac to bring all their food and domestic supplies as well as giving them their link with the mainland. Tourism, the main industry for many of the islands, relies totally on the ferry company.

Last night Colin Paterson, managing director of CalMac, said of the leak: "If it's true we are delighted for the company, the staff and the islanders. There has been a long hard battle fought and the last year has been unsettling for everyone."

Jammed Edinburgh to drive out the car

A £100 million project to free Edinburgh from its dependency on the car was unveiled yesterday by Lothian Regional Council, which wants to reduce traffic in the city by a third in the next 15 years (Gillian Bowditch writes).

Edinburgh has the fastest growth of car ownership in European cities. The number of new cars increased by 57 per cent, twice the national average, between 1981 and 1991. David Begg, Lothian's chairman of transportation,

said that if the new cars were parked nose to tail, they would reach from Edinburgh to Doncaster — 250 miles.

The measures include the introduction of special bus lanes. The two main thoroughfares, George Street and Princes Street, will be pedestrianised. There will be car parks at three sites outside the town, and £2 million will be spent on cycling facilities. The council intends to raise £70 million from the private sector.



The undecorated Park Lane flat has commanding views across Hyde Park

Flat goes on sale for £15m

By Rachel Kelly, Property Correspondent

THE most expensive flat in London goes on the market today for £15 million, even though it is not yet finished.

Agents are selling the undecorated shell of a two-storey penthouse in Park Lane, newly built on top of Fountain House, an apartment block next to the Grosvenor House Hotel. The flat is being sold as a shell to allow the buyer to design and furnish the 15,500 sq ft interior, the costs of which are expected to add a further £1 million to the bill.

Agents say they cannot

recall another London flat commanding such a high price. The nearest comparable is probably an eight-bedroom penthouse flat in St John's Wood, on sale since October 1992 for £12 million and yet to find a buyer.

Peter Wetherall, of the agents Wetherall, says: "What we are selling is raw space. There is a 1750 frontage and you see incredible views as soon as the lift opens." The top floor has a mansard roof, resembling a Parisian attic.

The flat has views west-

wards over Hyde Park, the Serpentine and the Albert Memorial, and to the east over the 19th-century red-brick and stone mansions of Mayfair. Its sale is being seen as part of the regeneration of Mayfair and its transformation from commercial to residential use as existing leases come to an end.

The flat is being sold on a 250-year lease with basement parking for 12 cars, and an express lift which services only the top floor. If it fails to sell as a whole, the agents plan to offer it as four units.

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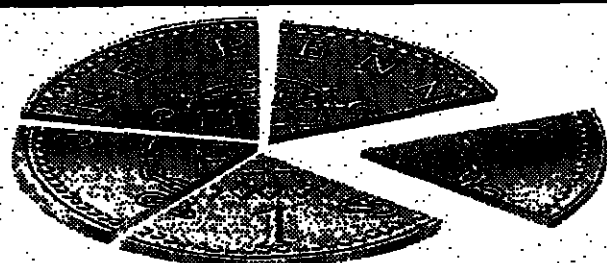
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'Genderquake' alters society's values

Optimistic young reject traditional roles for the sexes

By MARY ANN SIEGHART

YOUNG Britons are more optimistic than their elders, and more so than their counterparts were a generation ago, according to a report to be published tomorrow by Demos, the independent think-tank.

The younger generation is independent, "feminine" in its values and supportive of women's equality, according to the report, which found that young people are rejecting the values of their parents and grandparents. It is based on a study of 2,500 18- to 34-year-olds conducted by the market research company Synergy.

Those surveyed disliked rigid moral codes, puritanism, authoritarianism, pessimism and family values. While these traditional attachments are still held by the over-55s, the 18- to 34-year-olds seek excitement, risk and hedonism. They also see a blurring between feminine and masculine roles and are at ease with what they do.

Young working women are the most optimistic. Graduate women pursuing careers are also less likely to feel the need for a partner and are more empathic, "greener" and more internationalist than the rest of their age group. Young women are showing what used to be thought of as masculine characteristics: they are less emotional than older women and more willing to take risks and seek excitement, for instance in dangerous sports.

At the same time, the "value maps" of young men and women are remarkably similar, although different from those of older generations. Most young men (though still less than women) see little need for gender roles. They believe the sexes are equal and that qualities such as gentleness, sensitivity, independence

and strength are not the preserve of either sex.

Helen Wilkinson, author of the report, *No Turning Back: Generations and the Genderquake*, argues that many of these shifts in values will turn out to be permanent. Women are not likely to withdraw from the world of work, and employers are "feminising" their employment practices as a result. They increasingly want a more flexible and devious workforce and teamwork, consensus and adaptability are now demanded of all employees.

The implications, Miss Wilkinson says, are dramatic. A "care deficit" will open up as fewer women opt to stay at home to look after children or the elderly. "Policies which sound as if they are prescribing that only women should stay at home are unlikely to resonate with the core values of a considerable portion of the

younger generation of women." Miss Wilkinson argues that this generation is being ignored by politicians, whose rhetoric, particularly about family values, is off-putting. Younger people feel alienated by politics and are cynical about politicians. In 1992, 43 to 45 per cent of 18- to 25-year-olds did not vote.

Typically, these young people think that life is fun and are confident that, on balance, it will turn out well for them. They feel good about the future and approach life with energy and enthusiasm. The picture is not entirely sunny. Young men who are out of work are more likely to reject their local community, to dismiss traditional sources of authority, to be introverted and to be attracted to excitement. This may help to explain their attraction to crime, Miss Wilkinson says.

Male under-achievement, she writes, may be a new problem for policy-makers. Most young men share women's views on equality, but there remains a significant minority who cling on to the older notions of male and female roles.

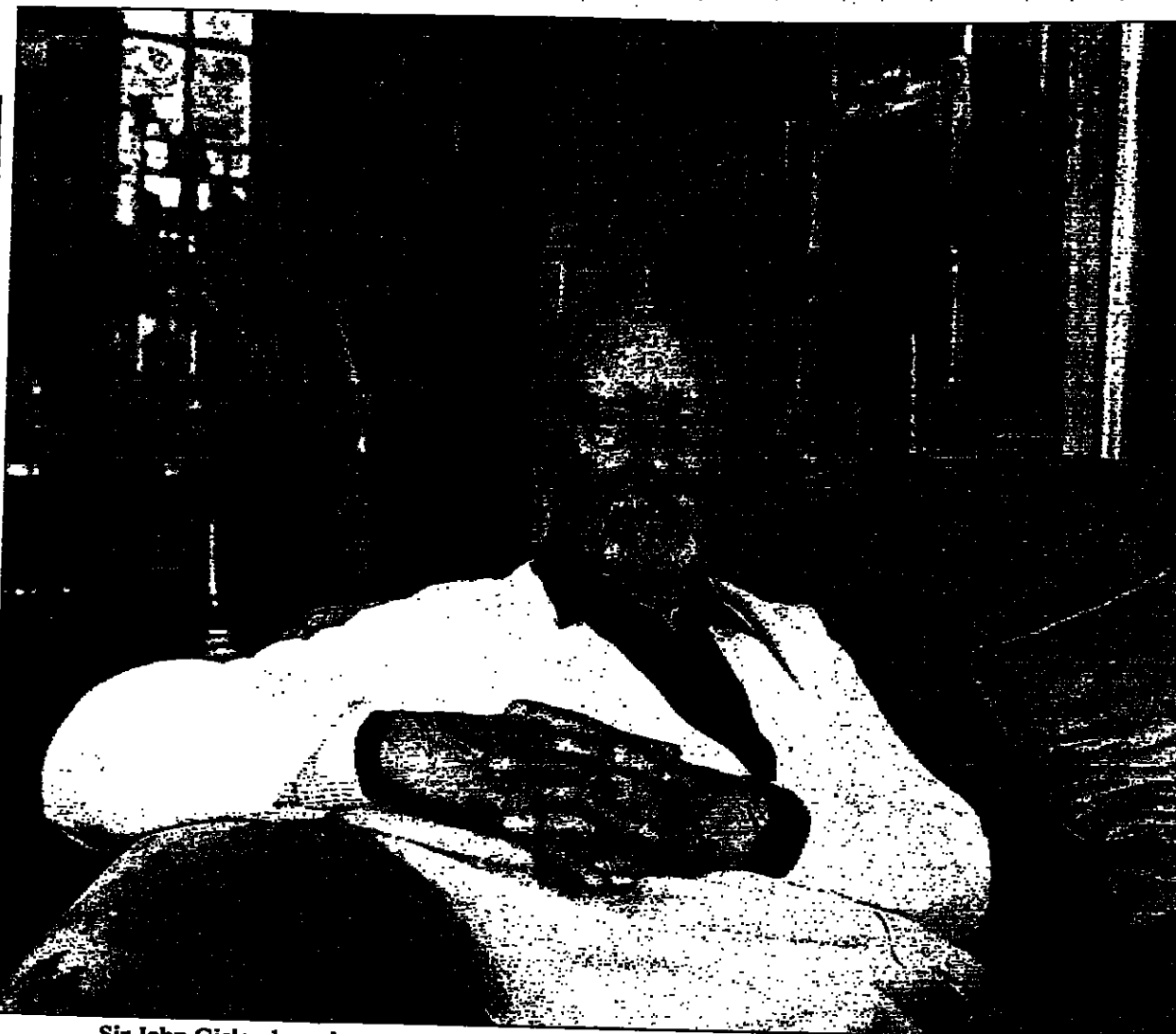
The report calls for a re-thinking of benefits, mortgages and pensions to reflect new patterns of part-time and discontinuous work; a greater linking of responsibilities with rights; better childcare and more family-friendly employment policies; more help for unskilled young men; a re-thinking of care; less rigid equal opportunities policies; and a recognition of the value of home life.

□ *No Turning Back: Generations and the Genderquake* by Helen Wilkinson (Demos, 9 Bridewell Place, London EC4V 6AP. 071-353 4479).

Youthful optimism, page 15



Wilkinson: men and women sharing values



Sir John Gielgud: a reluctant receiver of prizes, he consigned his 1982 Oscar to the bathroom

Japan salutes last of the great knights

By DALYA ALBERGE, ARTS CORRESPONDENT

FOR the Japanese, it was an opportunity to honour the last of the great triumvirate of theatrical knights. For Sir John Gielgud, in his 90th year, it was a public ordeal to be endured, and a moment to reflect upon the past.

Advised that the 12-hour journey to Japan would be too arduous for the object of their admiration, the Japan Arts Association invited Sir John to receive its 1994 £97,500 Praefectum Imperiale at the Japanese Embassy in London.

He accepted the award with a few words of thanks but, off stage, confessed that he dreaded public occasions and disliked prizes. He had, after all, consigned his 1982 Oscar to the bathroom.

Making speeches, he explained, was not a natural

occupation for an actor. "Appearing on stage as an actor is an escape. It isn't the same. We live in a modern world in which actors have to project their personality as well. That is more difficult to live up to."

Prizes left him cold. "It is awfully invidious comparing people, making them out to be rivals. The public loves setting one person against the other."

A spokeswoman for the 100-year-old Japan Arts Association explained why it had chosen to honour Sir John:

"When you think of the stage, there is no-one else who occupies such an international role in everyone's conscience." Knighted in 1953, he has dominated the acting profession through every decade since the 1920s. Now, he confessed, he felt "a bit lone-



Ellen Terry: gave him his first break

ly" without his great contemporaries — among them Sir Laurence Olivier and Sir Ralph Richardson. "That's the worst part of getting old."

On the plus side is the respect in which he is held. In his early days, he recalled, film directors preferred the

back of his head to the front. "That was the time of Leslie Howard and Cary Grant," he said. "I was not good looking enough. Once I became a character actor, I was more suitable."

He admits that he got his first job through family influence — his great aunt was Ellen Terry, the actress — and that he was "a bit ashamed at getting roles that way at the beginning". Roles such as his 1934 Hamlet and Charles Ryder's father in *Brideshead Revisited* confirmed his true talent.

The theatre, and theatres, hold little charm for him now. He used to go to plays four times a week. Now he is tempted perhaps only twice a year. A dislike of modern theatrical architecture has not helped. "The National Theatre is like an airport, the Barbican like a hospital."

£5m drugs cargo 'washed into sea'

Hopes of recovering a £5 million cargo of cannabis from a sunken yacht have been virtually abandoned. Customs said yesterday. The *Akiba* sank 11 days ago off Sandstead, North Yorkshire.

Customs believes the yacht has broken up and the cargo, two tonnes of cannabis resin, has washed out to sea. The *Akiba* drifted when a towing link broke after the vessel was intercepted 170 miles off the Tyne. Three men have appeared in court.

Lover cleared

Sarah Bowman, 22, was cleared at the Old Bailey of plotting to murder Michael White, the lover she shared with her mother. She still faces two counts of perverting the course of justice. Linda Bowman, 42, faces trial for conspiracy to murder.

Pony slashed

A three-year-old pony has been found dead after being mutilated with a knife at Wythall, Hereford and Worcester. Police are checking possible links with other attacks in the county.

Water warning

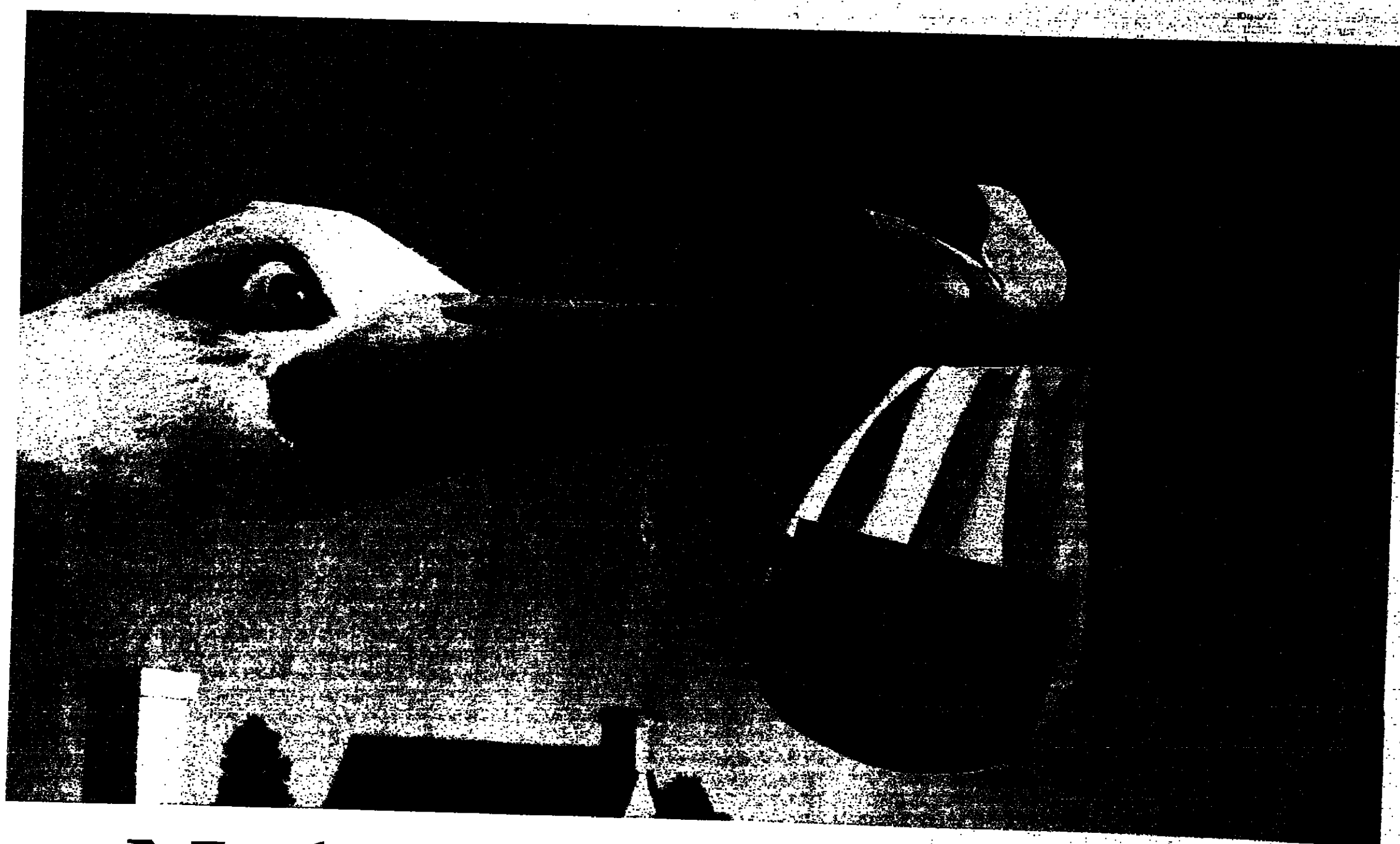
People in Reiford, Nottinghamshire, were told not to use tap water for drinking or cooking yesterday because of an unusual smell. Anglian Water said it believed there was no health risk.

School inherits

Elmbrook School, for children with learning difficulties, in Basildon, Essex, has been left £10,000 by Alexander Bystrov, 68, who fled to Britain 40 years ago after deserting from the Russian army.

Alarming theft

Thieves who broke into a Ford Sierra, belonging to Martin Lambert, 22, of Fareham, Hampshire, left behind the car but took a £300 alarm, his stereo and car phone.



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3M Innovation

Fashionable new thinking needs more precision

In the past Labour had seen tax, spend and borrow policies as the isolationist quick fix for national decline. "But the fact is that these policies cannot work in the highly integrated world economic environment in which we live."

But as the history of the Wilson government showed, short-term storms have a habit of disrupting long-term plans. There was little yesterday about how the economy might be managed in the short term.

Mr Brown tried to answer these questions by saying Labour would not take risks with inflation. It would "not tolerate the kinds of inflationary and fiscal imprudence which have characterised the past 15 years". Discipline, he said, was essential for modern government. Labour would consider nominal income, as well as inflation, targets. All this sounds fine as an aspiration. But Mr Brown will have to be more precise before the election.

Labour's new economic strategy deserves to be taken seriously. It is a marked improvement on previous policies. But if Labour wants to win the confidence of voters on the economy, it will have to tackle the tax, spending and borrowing questions head on beforehand.

PETER RIDDELL

Hain seeks to be voice of new Left

The answer to our problems is not right-wing economics with left-wing social compassion. The answer is a new left-of-centre economics altogether."

He wants to help Mr Blair to win the next general election, but he thinks that the Labour leader is being thwarted by those advising him. "Where I would raise a question mark with the modernisers is that you can't win by



He wants extra spending on both child benefit and state pensions. "If you target benefits you deprive the middle classes and better-off working classes of access to the welfare state. If you do that they will

Mr Hain now describes himself as "broad Left demo-

†Survey undertaken by NOP Market Research 19 December 1983. Enquirers must be aged 18 and over to be eligible to apply for a loan account for you. Before agreeing to lend you a loan...

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"We now have a modern Left which rejects state socialism. There is a rich seam which I am seeking to mine which is a different socialism — a libertarian socialism."

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Money-for-guns scheme brings in Haiti antiques

FROM TOM RHODES IN PORT-AU-PRINCE

A CROWD of Haitians stood beyond the razor-wire at the military airfield in Port-au-Prince yesterday to watch the latest show of United States might.

Occasionally one man would push through the crowd, carrying a bag or waving a handgun, to US soldiers waiting to collect the firearms as part of the first day of a cash-for-guns experiment being adopted by the American forces. They hope that the programme will lead to the dismantling of an estimated 30,000 Attaches and other paramilitary groups who remain at large in the Haitian capital.

After unloading the gun and undergoing a body search, each Haitian was taken to a tent where the weapon was scrutinised and a price tag put on it. Next door, cashiers handed out the requisite amount depending on the size and calibre of the gun in question.

The prices, which ranged from \$50 to \$300 (£32 to £190), appeared to have attracted only a handful of people by midday, who brought with them firearms more suited to the Second World War than any modern conflict. One .22 pistol fell apart in the hands of an American trooper as it was being examined.

In what appears to be a somewhat naive assessment of the situation, Major Keith Haas, in charge of the operation, said: "People in this neighbourhood do not have weapons; they just have hunger." American officials in Haiti said that the programme would continue for three weeks and any speculation as to its success after one day would be premature.

Nevertheless, in a day where experts believe that three-quarters of the population carries a gun and many will pay up to \$500 on the black market for a modern weapon, yesterday's show could not have been described

as a complete success. In the meantime, American troops have occupied the parliament building in readiness for a legislative session convened for today. Eight deputies and two senators belonging to the parliament of Jean-Bertrand Aristide, the exiled President who is expected to be reinstated within weeks, were to be flown into Haiti from the United States and Canada. Others, who have been in hiding in the countryside and in the capital, were also due to be present.

The Americans hope that there will be a quorum to vote on the law, which will grant an amnesty to all those who have committed acts of brutality in the three years since Mr Aristide was ousted by a military coup. It is clear,

however, that tempers are running high and that extreme groups on both sides might well clash in the coming days, most probably at a big demonstration on Friday to mark the third anniversary of the coup. American officials expect the turnout to be as high as 60,000 and, although troops are preparing for security, the event might well be uncontrollable.

Various incidents have happened throughout the country. In Labonde, a particularly oppressed community near Cap-Haitien, there were reports that civilians had managed a popular uprising the previous day and taken over the entire district. News of what had happened in the Cape earlier this week, when ten Haitian security men were

killed by American Marines, has spread gradually throughout Haiti. Warehouses have been looted in Cap-Haitien, Gonaives and Port-au-Prince by people who have gained confidence from the presence of American troops. Looting is a normal pattern of events during political upheaval in this Caribbean country. After the forced exile of Jean-Claude Duvalier in 1986, for instance, Haitians plundered everything they could find before the restoration of any law and order.

At the police headquarters in Pétionville, the rich suburb of the capital, a crowd gathered to taunt the police and Attaches standing on the steps. American military police arrived to calm the situation as the security men became increasingly scared and angry at the jibes from civilians.

"What the Americans do not understand is that we and the police are the only ones who can prevent this crowd from robbing everyone," Gilbert, an Attache, said. "Yes, we do oppress them, but that is our job and the brutalities that you talk of are largely rumour."

As the American military police left the police station, a group of Attaches charged into the fleeing crowd and dragged three people back, beating them repeatedly about the head before they were taken to an infamous back room for further interrogation.

The Attaches of Pétionville, who locals describe as particularly vicious, slapped hands in congratulation at their latest "arrests" and returned to a noisy game of dominoes on the verandah of the police headquarters.

One reached into his pocket to retrieve a glinting .375 pistol and declared calmly: "If you think we are going to give up this, you are mistaken. The only reason I did not use it on the scum down there is because I have been told not to."



Lieutenant Virg Palumbo, the US Marine who shot dead a Haitian policeman in Cap-Haitien on Sunday. Nine more Haitians died in the firing that followed



A US military policewoman guarding Port-au-Prince's feared "cafeteria" police station.

Democrat hold on House attacked

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

ONE day after President Clinton's healthcare reforms were shelved, Republicans moved on to the offensive, unveiling ten major reforms that they promised to vote on within 100 days if voters give them control of the House of Representatives for the first time in 40 years on November 8.

In a made-for-television ceremony on the steps of the Capitol, more than 300 Republican congressmen and candidates signed their party's "Contract with America" — a medley of shamelessly populist proposals targeted at the millions of disaffected Americans who despair of Washington's ability to deliver.

One poll yesterday showed just 16 per cent of Americans believe the federal government helps them to achieve the "American dream" while 44 per cent said it hindered them. The minority Republicans need to gain 40 more seats to win outright control of the House, and their pledges included new tax breaks as well as a constitutional amendment mandating a balanced budget.

They pledged deep cuts in Congress's staff and budget; and to make congressmen subject to the same laws that apply to all other American citizens. They promised a vote on limiting the terms of elected politicians, a tough new anti-crime Bill including an "effective and enforceable death penalty", and fundamental welfare reform.

Newt Gingrich, the fiercely partisan Republican House whip who would become Speaker if his party wins its 40 seats, devised the "Contract" to overcome intense voter scepticism about politicians' campaign promises. "A campaign promise is one thing. A signed contract is quite another. If we don't accomplish what we've pledged, throw us out — we mean it," he said.

The White House denounced the contract as "warned-over Reaganism", a "fraud" and "voodoo two" — a reference to George Bush's 1980 description of Ronald Reagan's plans to cut taxes, boost military spending and balance the budget as "voodoo economics".

Beckett 'failure' staged privately

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

A PREVIOUSLY unperformed play by Samuel Beckett has been given its first staged reading despite an uneasy wrangle with the writer's estate, which said the playwright considered the work a failure.

Eleutheria, completed in 1947, was Beckett's first full-length play and ushered in his most creative period during which he wrote *Waiting for Godot* and three novels, *Molloy*, *Malone Dies* and *The Unnameable*. The play,

whose Greek title means freedom, was read by 13 actors to an audience of about 100 on Monday at the New York studio of Barney Rosset, a longtime friend and publisher of the playwright.

Mr Rosset claims that Beckett gave him the rights to the play in 1986.

However, the writer's nephew, Edward Beckett, the executor of his estate, said Beckett did not want the work staged, and never agreed to give Mr Rosset the

rights. He denounced the planned performance as "not only illicit but morally disgraceful" and said it "deliberately transgresses the will" of the author.

From his home in Britain, he threatened legal action against anyone participating in the planned New York Theatre Workshop event, but left open the possibility he would accept a private reading. Mr Rosset then moved the performance to his studio in Manhattan's East Village.

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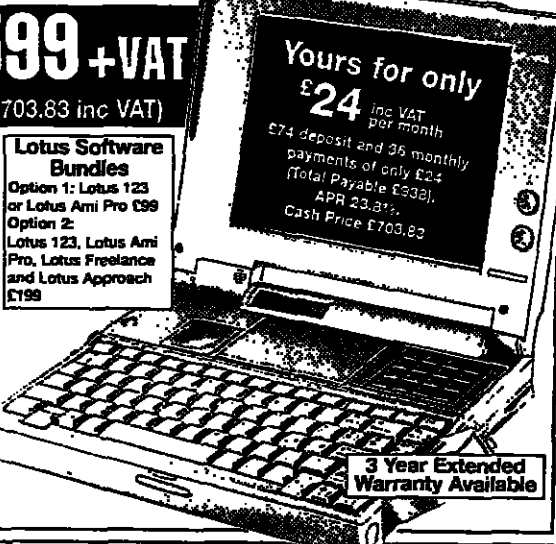
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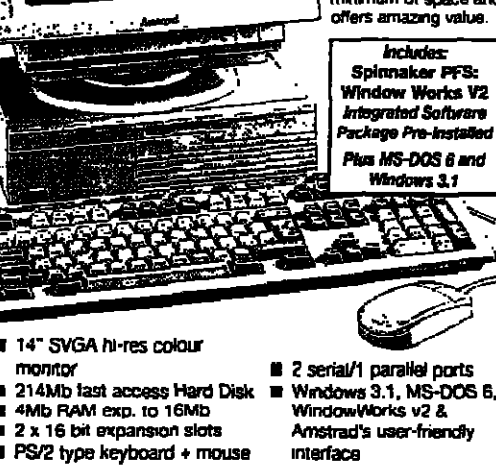
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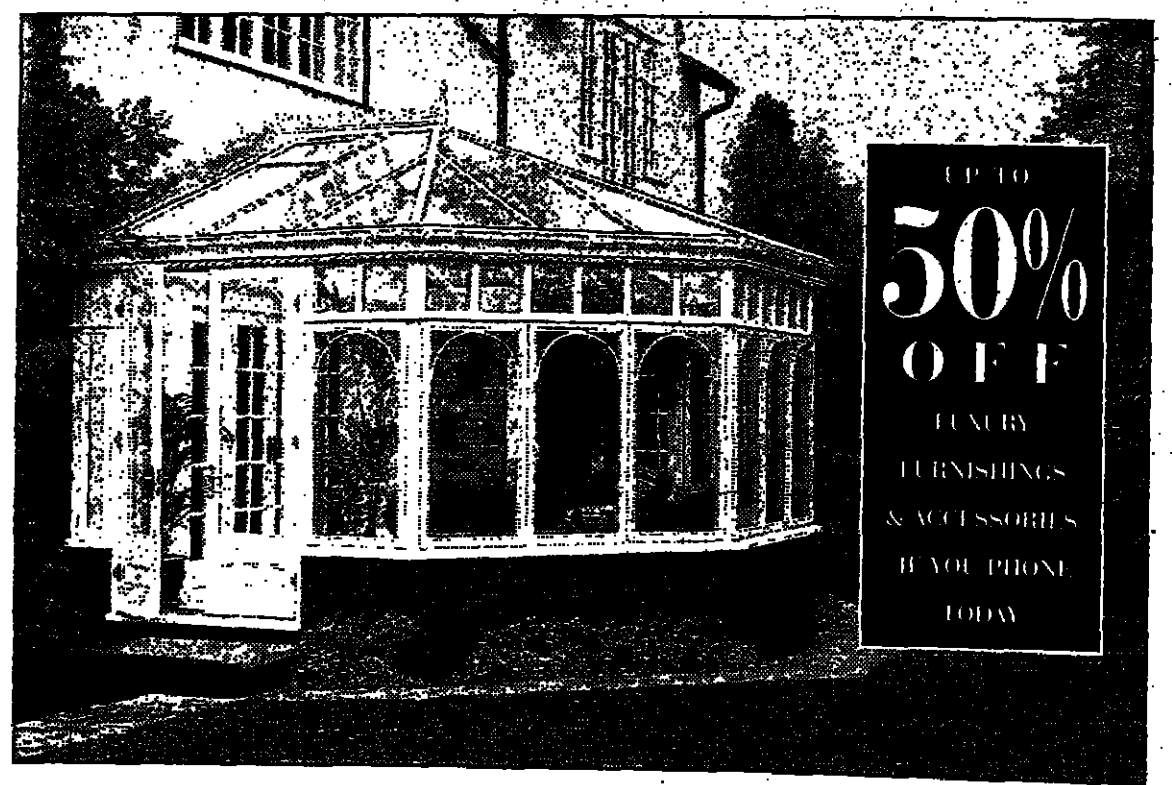
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Outbreak of mob violence as fear of disease afflicts both wealthy and dispossessed in India

Plague spreads to Delhi in exodus from infected city

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN SURAT

INDIA'S plague outbreak has spread to the capital, carried by two men who fled the western city of Surat to escape the disease, health officials said yesterday. Another seven cases were reported in Calcutta.

The two Delhi victims — the first confirmed cases in the capital — were among 19 people being treated for symptoms of pneumonic plague at the city's Infectious Diseases Hospital, Harsh Vardhan, the city's health chief, said.

The two confirmed plague victims, aged 28 and 30, were among more than 300,000 people who have fled plague-infested Surat over the past few days, heading in all directions. The victims arrived in the capital, 1,110 miles from Surat, on Saturday, several days after plague cases began surfacing in Surat.

In Surat, the official death toll was little changed at 44, but the number of suspected cases rose to 531 from 452 on Monday. Foreign countries have started to impose restrictions on travellers from the affected parts of India.

The first hint of panic is also being felt by India's upper middle classes, whose lives are seldom touched by the squalor about them. Surat's well-to-do have already panicked and fled. Every private doctor has gone, along with the lawyers, accountants, businessmen and half the officials of the city council. Not a factory or office is open; every restaurant, cafe and cinema is shut. A seething city has come to a halt.

Most of the poor have fled, too, leaving 100,000 shun huts to slide into the sodden filth of the alleys. Half the city's 2.2 million people lived in these fearsome places, which have no sanitation save for gullies that feed huge stink-pits heaving with disease and stink. As

many as 500,000 people have gone, nearly a quarter of the population. All buses are heading somewhere else, every taxi has been hired to leave town; outbound trains are still packed a week after the flight began. Schools, colleges and public parks have been closed for almost a week on orders from the Gujarat state government under a century-old anti-plague law.

Most shops are shuttered. Carcasses of cows and buffalo rot where they fell in floods three weeks ago, symbols of a city's collapse. Every rubbish tip in Surat has long since filled, to overflowing and a



million tons of rubbish pile into the streets every day because there is nowhere else to put it. The sky is thick with acrid smoke from hundreds of bonfires in a pitifully inadequate attempt to bring the rat-infested rubbish under control.

Surat has produced India's greatest human flight since 1947. Those who escaped this dire place have carried the plague with them, potentially threatening every corner of the country. The government rejects any doomsday predictions, saying the situation is under control.

Some English-language newspapers carried front-

page articles this week telling their readers how to detect plague symptoms. This reflected an uncommon alarm among the elite that the diseases of the poor might, for once, reach them.

In West Bengal, where the Calcutta cases were reported, the state government issued a red alert last night. There are another 24 suspected cases in the big central state of Madhya Pradesh. At least 30 people in Bombay's hospitals have plague symptoms. In Maharashtra, where Bombay is located, 30 new cases of pneumonic plague have been confirmed, taking the total to 57. This outbreak is unconnected with the Surat crisis, save for coming from similar squalor. So far as is known, everybody with plague caught it in Surat. Pneumonic plague is highly infectious, as the seven doctors in city hospital in Surat who have caught it can attest.

"It takes just one sneeze, one cough, one person to spit on the floor, and everybody in the vicinity is infected," the chief nurse said. "The doctors did not take precautions because they did not know what they were dealing with."

Like all medical staff in the hospital, a dirty establishment with primitive facilities, the head nurse wears a surgical mask at all times. Four guards from the Rapid Action Force, a paramilitary group sent to Surat to help with anti-plague activities, stand at the main entrance, conspicuous in their bright blue fatigues, to stop infected patients leaving. More than 100 have escaped to join families who have fled.

Every morning the hospital is a bedlam of people demanding check-ups, families visiting patients, and shudders appealing for supplies of the red-and-yellow



Tibupen Desai, 40, a plague victim in Ahmedabad, 125 miles north of Surat, being taken to hospital. She died later

capsules of tetracycline antibiotics that have assumed an almost mystical reputation.

There is no shortage of tetracycline at City Hospital any more, but there is a desperate lack of staff to tend the 300-odd patients suspected of carrying the plague, which has killed millions of Indians this century. The number of foreign countries taking steps

to guard against infected travellers from India has multiplied. Frankfurt, Germany's largest civilian airport, began health checks on travellers from India. Pakistan said it had suspended airline flights to Bombay and stopped issuing visas to travellers from the three western Indian states of Gujarat, Maharashtra and Rajasthan. Islamabad said it

was considering sending special flights to evacuate Pakistani citizens from India after the suspension of a twice-weekly service to Bombay by the state-run Pakistan International Airlines. China said passengers on the one flight a week into Peking from Bombay would be interviewed by quarantine officials about their health and

recent travel. Singapore advised citizens to postpone visiting affected parts of India.

Six Gulf Arab states — the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, Oman, Kuwait, Bahrain and Qatar — decided on a unified approach, including screening passengers arriving from India.

Leading article, page 17

Offices of 'deserter' doctors sacked

FROM REUTERS IN SURAT

ANGRY mobs ransacked four doctors' offices after their owners had fled from plague-stricken Surat, the police commissioner of the western Indian city said yesterday. Crowds stormed the four dispensaries removed furniture and set fire to it.

They also broke into a chemist's shop which, residents claimed, had been overcharging for anti-plague medicine and burnt its furniture and a scooter. P.C. Pande, the police commissioner, said that no arrests had been made.

About 400 state reserve police have been deployed in plague-affected areas of the city which is 160 miles north of Bombay and the centre of the outbreak.

Surat officials have intensified their drive to contain the plague, sending dozens of lorries and loaders to collect an estimated 4,000 tonnes of rubbish from the streets. Dozens of workers wearing surgical masks and gloves swept and scrubbed the corridors of the civil hospital.

Some hospital officials said several health workers, including the head of the pathology department, who had stayed away from work since the outbreak was declared, had returned yesterday.

In the area around Bombay, about 2,500 paramedics are conducting house-to-house surveys looking for people with plague symptoms. Health officials also have raided chemist's shops hoarding or selling on the black market the antibiotics that plague sufferers need.

Hospitals in Ahmedabad, the largest city in Gujarat, are also examining several dozens patients with suspected plague. In states as far away as Tamil Nadu in southern India, the authorities are killing rats and spraying homes with insecticide.

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'The entire world has a vital stake in the establishment of a strategic partnership'

US and Russia signal new era of peace and trade

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER
IN WASHINGTON

PRESIDENT Clinton and President Yeltsin yesterday began a two-day summit in Washington with both men proclaiming a new harmony in US-Russian relations that would benefit the entire world.

Welcoming Mr Yeltsin on the South Lawn of the White House, Mr Clinton said they were meeting "not as adversaries but as partners in the quest for a more prosperous and peaceful planet". US and Russian interests now coincided far more often than they collided and "where we do disagree we can discuss our differences in a climate of warm peace, not cold war".

Mr Yeltsin, addressing his "colleague Bill Clinton", declared that they had "done well in laying the foundation of trust and security between our two peoples. Now let us build on it to secure a future of peace".

The strong sense of optimism contrasted strongly with the mood of the two men's last summit in Moscow in January when Russian hardliners were carrying all before them, but Mr Clinton said the Russian leader had proved wrong the pessimists who said he could not reform his country. Under his leadership Russia was "coming together and moving forward" and "her greatest days lie before her".

Nor was the optimism diminished by evident disagreements over Bosnia and Russia's treatment of her neighbours.

As the two men began their first talks in the Oval Office reporters asked Mr Yeltsin how he would respond if America lifted the arms embargo against the Bosnian Muslims. "My response would be negative," he replied. Mr Clinton interjected that the issue was "academic" as the Bosnian government

WHITE HOUSE TALKS

had now asked for any lifting to be delayed another four to six months. "I want to emphasise that the US and Russia have worked very closely together on Bosnia to this point," he said. "We have been together every step of the way, and we're going to do our best to stay together."

In a speech to the United Nations General Assembly on Monday Mr Yeltsin had reasserted Russia's right to intervene in what it calls its

"near abroad", insisting that "the main peacekeeping burden in the territory of the former Soviet Union lies upon the Russian Federation".

Again Mr Clinton reacted only mildly. "Together we must ensure that all the new independent states achieve their rightful place as strong and independent nations in Europe able to chart their own destinies," he said in his welcoming speech.

Mr Yeltsin said: "The entire world has a vital stake in the establishment of a strategic partnership between Russia and the United States." A few hours earlier, Mr Clinton addressed the same forum and declared that "the growth of co-operation between the United States and the Russian Federation also should give us all great cause for confidence."

Yesterday afternoon the two men were attending another ceremony in the White House Rose Garden to compensate for Russia's exclusion from July's D-Day ceremonies in Britain and France. This brought together American and Russian veterans of World War Two who met at the Elbe river in 1945.

But unlike all previous US-Russian and US-Soviet summits, the principal focus of this one was not arms control or US aid to Russia but hard commercial talk on ways of increasing US trade and investment in Russia.

Mr Yeltsin arrived bearing evidence of Russia's economic recovery, and urged business leaders he met in New York on Monday night to "come to Russia. Bring technology and capital."

United States officials said Mr Clinton would be pressing for lower tariffs on certain American imports, and would today bring three corporate leaders to the Oval Office to explain to Mr Yeltsin the problems they encounter when investing in Russia.

Famous son honoured

THE Soviet tradition of personality cults, supposedly eradicated with the collapse of communism, appears to be making something of a comeback in President Yeltsin's birthplace (Richard Beeson writes).

In the village of Butko in the Urals, the town authorities are making final preparations for the opening of a museum in honour of their most famous son. "Usually museums are devoted to the dead, but we decided not to wait until then," Galina Filimonova, the town's deputy mayor, said, adding that photographs, belongings and documents from the Russian leader's past had been collected for display in a house once owned by the President's aunt.

The decision to open the museum was apparently made for good capitalist reasons, namely the arrival of foreign tourists in the village, which is nearly 1,500 miles east of Moscow.

Woman who holds purse-strings

LEADING LADY

SHE is a high-powered lawyer, the wife of a senior American politician and probably the single most important woman at the summit, but her name is not Hillary Clinton (Martin Fletcher writes). It is Ruth Harkin and she is the wife of Tom Harkin, the US senator who challenged Bill Clinton for the 1992 Democratic presidential nomination.

Mrs Harkin is the one constant fixture during Mr Yeltsin's visit. She met him at the White House for a lunch with businessmen yesterday, and again at last night's White House state dinner. She will

be at the Russian Embassy's dinner tonight, and will be at Mr Yeltsin's side when he visits the Boeing plant and talks to West Coast businessmen in Seattle tomorrow.

As funds for direct American aid to Russia have diminished, so Mrs Harkin's importance has grown. Mr Yeltsin is desperate for American investment and she is president of the Overseas Private Investment Corporation, a government agency that leverages very small amounts of federal

money into huge private investments by American firms in developing countries.

During the summit Mrs Harkin will be signing seven contracts worth more than \$500,000 (£320,000) to support aircraft engine, fish processing, gold production, oil and gas drilling, telecommunications and subway sandwich shop ventures. Mrs Clinton will hardly mind being eclipsed by Mrs Harkin. Their friendship transcends political jealousy. It began when their husbands were hammering away at each other during the 1992 campaign.

Muslims push for Sarajevo demilitarised zone

By EYAN PRENTICE
DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

PRESIDENT Izetbegovic of Bosnia-Herzegovina was due last night to ask the United Nations General Assembly for a three-mile demilitarised zone to be established round Sarajevo and to explain why his Muslim-led government has abandoned its drive for an early lifting of the arms embargo.

The Bosnian leader was unlikely to mention all the reasons for the U-turn and was also unlikely to have won support for a demilitarised zone at talks earlier with Douglas Hurd, the Foreign Secretary, and President Tudjman of Croatia.

The main strategy behind the arms embargo backtracking has less to do with Western arm-twisting than with shifting alliances at home. Mr Izetbegovic's government hopes that the Bosnian Serbs will be seriously debilitated by another six months of isolation from the international

BOSNIA EMBARGO



A Yugoslav Airlines worker cleans a DC9 at Belgrade airport yesterday as preparations are made to restart international flights after the easing of UN sanctions

community and from Serbia. The Muslims believe that by next spring they will be ready to launch a new offensive if Radovan Karadzic, the Bosnian Serb leader, is not ready to

hand back some land and make peace. The government and its supporters have lost almost all hope that the outside world will come to their aid and believe they must

forge their own deals and fight their own battles.

The Muslims want UN peacekeepers to stay and prevent a Serb winter offensive while they quietly build up stockpiles of arms. The Bosnian government is also putting less effort into maintaining the federation with Croats. This fraying alliance is another reason for the Muslims' change of heart over the arms embargo because they fear the Croats could turn against them — as they did in 1993 — but with deadlier effect if they had access to heavy weapons due to the lifting of sanctions.

A source close to the Bosnian government said yesterday that Mr Izetbegovic and Mr Tudjman hate each other but that the Muslim leader could talk to Dr Karadzic and President Milosevic of Serbia. "At least we know where we are with them and they have not pretended to be allies then betrayed us," the source said.

The first tentative direct approaches between the besieged Bosnian Serbs in Pale

and the Muslim-led government have been made through Jovan Zambetica, Dr Karadzic's Cambridge-educated spokesman. "Zambetica approached us for talks about a new map and how they can get access to the sea. But it was not good enough — yet," the source said.

The Muslims' lack of faith in the West has spawned an increasing distrust of Britain, which has manifested itself in attacks on Lieutenant-General Sir Michael Rose, the commander of UN troops in Bosnia. The Bosnian government is especially worried about the closer ties between London and Moscow after last weekend's talks between John Major and President Yeltsin. The Prime Minister and the Russian leader are believed to have discussed the possibility of a confederation between the Bosnian Serbs and Serbia to break the deadlock.

America, which was the only powerful supporter of the Muslims' struggle for the "right to defend themselves",

must be relieved that it no longer faces the imminent dilemma of alienating Russia and allies in Europe who believe lifting the arms ban would lead to a renewal of all-out war. However, Washington has lost kudos by being seen as having backed itself into a corner, while Moscow is perceived as having performed some nifty footwork in the shifting Balkan political terrain.

Russia persuaded the Bosnian Serbs to pull their heavy weapons back from Sarajevo in February, which prevented widescale NATO airstrikes and the risk of an escalating conflict. Moscow also rejected President Milosevic at least to appear to abandon the Bosnian Serbs in exchange for an easing of sanctions.

In Belgrade yesterday, Lord Owen, the European Union negotiator, said that he did not expect any problems in easing sanctions against the rump Yugoslavia, after he and co-mediator, Thorvald Stoltenberg, met Mr Milosevic.



The American and Russian Presidents standing shoulder to shoulder at Boris Yeltsin's White House welcome yesterday

Gap at the heart of foreign policy

FROM GEORGE BROCK
IN STRASSBOURG

President Clinton's ineptness forces European governments to deal with two centres of power in Washington

THE day before he went to this summer's stormy EU summit on the Greek island of Corfu, Douglas Hurd spent a busy 24 hours in Washington. He saw 19 American senators in an attempt to convince them that the US government should not lift the UN arms embargo which stops weapons reaching Bosnia's Muslims.

The Foreign Secretary made little headway: America's legislators are chafing to end the embargo. Less than three weeks later, Mr Hurd found himself at the G7 summit in Naples where President Clinton took him briefly aside. He wanted to thank the British Cabinet minister for the helpful lobbying he had been doing in Washington.

History does not record what Mr Hurd said by way of reply, although he was doubtless tactful. But he could have fairly asked the President why, if his arguments against ending the embargo were so useful, the White House itself was not putting that case across to the senators.

Episodes like this help to explain why President Clinton's reputation in Europe continues to sink in the wake of his uncertain policy in

Somalia, Bosnia and Haiti and after a speech to the UN General Assembly on Monday which was almost empty of new ideas and easily outstaged by Russia's leader, Boris Yeltsin. Although there is now a chance that a confrontation over the Bosnian arms embargo may be averted or at least delayed, transatlantic rows over Bosnia have already provoked sombre reflection on relations between America and Europe. The American President's inability to control Congress's own foreign policy leaves European governments dealing with two power centres in Washington.

"Bill Clinton is a verbose, bumbling flake who has lost control of his legislature. That's the real disaster," said one embittered official at NATO. Doubts about the Clinton Administration's odd combination of bossiness and incoherence inside NATO and the UN are rarely aired publicly by Europe's politicians anxious not to make misunderstandings worse than they are already.

British officials resent

American efforts to push NATO into carrying out air strikes in Bosnia for the sake of making allied policy look more vigorous and Washington's discreet campaign to have General Sir Michael Rose replaced as the UN commander in Sarajevo before his term is up. General Rose has become far too attached to negotiation with the Serbs for Washington's taste. Above all, London dreads a hasty withdrawal from Bosnia under fire.

One British official said recently: "Imagine the television pictures. We pull out in the depths of a Balkan winter, under fire. Muslim women lie down in the snows begging our soldiers not to leave. What would we do at that point? We would tell people where the blame lay: with the American Congress."

As military spending has fallen everywhere and states compete anew for economic advantage in a more open world economy, America looks more to Asia and Latin America. Europe struggles to

agree on how to tie its western and eastern halves together. America's principal interest in Europe is the stability of its old negotiating partner, Russia.

But America's faltering disengagement from its heavy post-war commitment to Europe's security makes the mess worse. Last May President Clinton issued "Presidential Decision Directive 25" listing the stiff conditions to be met before US troops are deployed abroad. Taken individually, the stipulations sound reasonably prudent. Taken together, they suggest that presidents will no longer take risks with American lives in remote spots where America's national interests are not at stake.

"PDD25" therefore marks a retreat from America's old superpower role. Yet President Clinton still talks of wanting to right moral wrongs in the Balkans and of America's global duty to promote human rights. The gap at the heart of his foreign policy is any definition of the role of force in crises where rules of international behaviour have been broken. An American president who cannot guide his allies over why and how he might use America's military might will constantly be embroiled in the sour megaphone diplomacy which we now hear echoing across the Atlantic.

Challenge to West on missile cutback

By MICHAEL EVANS
DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

THE proposal by President Yeltsin to draw the five declared nuclear powers into a new pact committed to further cuts in missiles and an end to the production of fissile material presents the West with a timely arms control challenge.

The destruction of missiles and warheads is already a full-time industry in the United States and Russia, after the two strategic arms reduction treaties (Start 1 and 2) and unilateral decisions by Washington and Moscow to eliminate ground-based and naval tactical systems.

The elimination programme is under way, even though neither the US nor Russia has ratified Start 2, and Russia is waiting for Ukraine to sign the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty before officially implementing Start 1. Mr Yeltsin's proposal, however,

is to bring Britain, France and China formally into nuclear arms discussions, continuing a foreign policy strategy embraced by his predecessor, Mikhail Gorbachev.

The British Government has in the past rejected involvement in arms reduction talks, on the ground that Britain is only a small-time nuclear player compared with the US and Russia.

Yesterday Malcolm Rifkind, the Defence Secretary, said priority should be given to implementing existing arms treaties, echoing the official view in Washington. Britain, he said, had a responsibility to be "constantly on the lookout for new opportunities in a responsible way to reduce military hardware".

However, next year Britain is expected to sign two crucial arms control agreements, an indefinite extension to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty in April and a Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty by the end of 1995.

Some arms control experts believe that if the lesser nuclear powers are seen to be actively engaged in discussing missile reductions it will help to guarantee a successful outcome to next year's NPT negotiations and could have a positive influence on the maverick countries with nuclear ambitions, such as Iran, Iraq and North Korea.

James Woolsey, director of the CIA, said in a lecture this week that 7,000 Iraqi nuclear scientists are continuing with Baghdad's atomic programme in underground laboratories and that Iran is seven to ten years away from having the bomb.

Pomp and ceremony but drama is absent

By MARTIN FLETCHER

THERE was all the customary pomp and ceremony as President Clinton greeted President Yeltsin at the White House yesterday: the 21-gun salute, the military bands, the inspection of the honour guard at a South Lawn welcoming ceremony.

Most Americans, however, were utterly indifferent. Long gone are the days when Soviet and American leaders held summits to ward off nuclear Armageddon. Gone is the excitement of the first summits after the Cold War when the nuclear arms race was not just halted but spectacularly reversed.

In reality, Mr Yeltsin was just another head of state passing through the American capital with the prime purpose of drumming up

American trade and investment in his country.

Today in the Oval Office he will be meeting not America's top generals or diplomats, but three of its leading corporate chiefs executives. Russian relations with the United States are now so normal that Mr Yeltsin is the first Russian or Soviet leader to stay at Blair House, the official government guest house, instead of the Russian Embassy.

Indeed, so "normal" is the two-day summit that it did not make the front page of any important American newspaper yesterday. Act Five of the Bill n' Boris show, which opened so successfully in Vancouver last year, is now playing to an almost empty house.

If you were reading this in our new Club Euro

China ignores British calls for end to megaphone diplomacy

FROM JONATHAN MIRSKY
IN HONG KONG

Peking is 1,000 days from taking possession of Hong Kong and the Foreign Secretary will find little readiness for conciliation

Tomorrow Douglas Hurd, the Foreign Secretary, will meet Qian Qichen, his Chinese counterpart, at the United Nations to discuss Hong Kong. British officials expect little from the discussion, but publicly the Dunkirk spirit lives with John Major, quoted this week in the Chinese press as expressing optimism about the meeting. The Prime Minister said it was in everybody's interest to co-operate, said Mr Hurd has recently said much the same. Chris Patten, the Governor of Hong Kong, called for an end to megaphone diplomacy and hoped political matters could be put to one side.

However, Dunkirk is far from the thoughts of the Chinese, who are 1,000 days away from standing victorious on the edge of Victoria harbour and in no mood for

conciliation. Officials in Peking, including Mr Qian, have emphasised that leaving out politics is impossible and that there must be a comprehensive discussion. China says that this means returning to the Anglo-Chinese Joint Declaration of 1984, which will entail throwing out the Patten constitutional changes to widen democracy, which are now law here. Peking has pledged to dismantle the entire legislative structure on July 1, 1997.

Monday was the tenth anniversary of the Joint Declaration and an avalanche of diverse press commentary agreed only that whatever détente had been established since 1984 was moribund, if not dead.

There is plenty of evidence to support this view. The 17 rounds of Sino-British negotiations ended last year in failure. The meetings of the Joint Liaison Group, established in 1984 to deal with supposedly uncontested issues such as building the new airport and container terminal, revising Hong Kong's laws to conform with China's postage, and sewers, have moved tortoise-like with lengthy breaks and much mutual bitterness.

A few successes, such as the transfer of defence lands and agreements about China entering the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, have occurred where it plainly suited Peking. All of this has

been punctuated with Chinese onslaughts on Mr Patten, supported by attacks from British politicians and diplomats, such as those by Sir Percy Cradock, a previous Ambassador to China, and Baron Howe, the former Foreign Secretary, published this week in newspapers here.

In Hong Kong, where the economy has never been more buoyant, tycoons and financiers regularly call for Mr Patten's departure and the Executive Council, his Cabinet, rarely speaks up for him. Opinion polls reveal admiration and sympathy for the Governor among people here but not much hope for the post-1997 future.

The Chinese explanation is blunt: "It is the British side which in the past ten years has created a lot of disputes," Zhang Junsheng, deputy director of the New China News Agency, Peking's *de facto* embassy here, said this week. This has the virtue of not placing all the blame on

Mr Patten but is not explanatory. The problem began in June 1989, when hundreds of thousands of Hong Kong citizens marched in support of the Tiananmen demonstrators. The colony suddenly appeared to Peking to have become a seditious "political city" and this was hammered home in 1991 when democrats, led by men who Peking had branded "black hands of counter-revolution", swept the polls in elections for a part of the Legislative Council.

From then on the airport became the favourite Chinese weapon with which to bear Britain, although London is paying for the facility, and Sir David Wilson, the former Governor, and Mr Hurd were pariahs in Peking. The Chinese compelled Mr Major to travel to the capital in 1991, the first Western leader to appear there after the Tiananmen Square massacre, to

sign a memorandum of understanding on the airport which has achieved nothing.

With the appearance of Mr Patten in 1992 the insults became more vivid but the cause, in Peking's eyes, remained the same: Britain had either permitted or encouraged sedition and disloyalty in Hong Kong.

Peking takes the long view. In 1997 China gets it all. Problems with laws that do not fit or airports and container terminals can then be solved and, if the people in Hong Kong are increasingly anxious, then that is what they deserve for their disloyalty in 1989.

When Mr Hurd was here two weeks ago, addressing the news media with a distracted-looking Mr Patten next to him, he said: "Uncertainties no longer dominate the life of Hong Kong." In the 30 hours that the Foreign Secretary was here, he was constantly told that the opposite was true.

Iraq troops put on alert after food rations cut

BY CHRISTOPHER WALKER, MIDDLE EAST CORRESPONDENT

THE revitalised Iraqi Army has been placed on maximum alert to cope with signs of increasing dissent against deprivation caused by UN sanctions, now starting to bite after four years.

According to opposition and foreign intelligence sources social collapse is detected in a soaring crime rate, hyperinflation, a six-fold jump in child mortality, the appearance of child street beggars, new orders for call-up dodgers to have their ears cut off and the imposition of severe Islamic punishment for theft, including the cross-amputation of a hand and foot for repeat offenders.

There are also concerns at the CIA about the extent to which the Iraqi government has retained considerable numbers of Scud missiles. James Woolsey, the CIA Director, is also concerned that Iraq has more than 7,000 nuclear scientists and engineers, the largest pool of scientific and technical expertise in the Arab world.

The deepening crisis comes as the United States is under

increasing pressure, especially from France and Russia, to drop restrictions imposed after the invasion of Kuwait in 1990, including a ban on oil exports and all imports other than food and medicine.

According to the exiled opposition group, the Free Iraqi Council, the military alert was ordered by President Saddam nearly three weeks ago after he had visited the second city of Mosul, previously a key stronghold of his ruling Sunni Muslim minority clique. The emergency morale-boosting tour to the city of two million people, which provides a third of his officer corps, included a number of executions. "The internal situation is extremely tense," said al-Jabir, son of a former Prime Minister and the council's leader, said. "All army leave has been cancelled. Saddam is concerned about unrest among officers."

Earlier this summer, he reappointed himself Prime Minister as well as President to counter the deterioration of the economy. At the weekend, a public admission of his



While stocks last: Iraqis crowd a Baghdad market to buy provisions after rations of food staples had been cut, in some cases by half

failure came with reports that because of money problems, the rations of cut-price flour, rice and cooking oil, which had supplied the bulk of the population, have been reduced by as much as half. The move marked the collapse of a scheme to provide about 70 per cent of daily food needs,

ease hardship for the masses and restrain popular discontent.

The estimated annual cost of £634 million depleted Iraq's dwindling gold reserves. Since President Saddam took control of the economy high exit taxes have been imposed to discourage foreign travel

and another 91 products, ranging from fish to shampoo, have been added to Baghdad's list of banned imports. All diplomats have been ordered to change licence plates, with fees payable only in dollars.

Recent visitors to Baghdad have reported a big increase in the number of European bus-

nessmen booking into luxury hotels there to do the groundwork for new industrial deals which will be agreed if and when the oil embargo is lifted. One Baghdad-based diplomat described the situation as a race between the sinking economy and the increasing willingness of foreign govern-

ments, pushed by their own industrialists, to question Iraq's continuing isolation.

Earlier this month, the misery of ordinary Iraqis intensified when several hundred money changers were jailed, making it more difficult to convert into local currency remittances from abroad.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Nigeria gets new Cabinet

Lagos: General Sani Abacha, Nigeria's ruler, yesterday appointed an enlarged ruling council composed of military men as the highest decision-making body in the country. An official statement said General Abacha would be chairman of the 25-member council to be sworn in today.

He retained Lieutenant-General Oladipo Diya as his number two and brought into the Provisional Ruling Council field commanders and many leading figures from the defence ministry.

The general has stifled recent unrest directed at replacing him with Moshood Abiola, the detained presidential claimant, and since August has signalled a major restructuring of his government. (Reuters)

Inkatha claims

Johannesburg: Claims for damages of £2.34 million were served by Chief Mangosuthu Buthezi's Inkatha Freedom Party on President Mandela, the ANC and the police. The claims come two days after the chief, who is Home Affairs Minister, stormed into a television studio with armed bodyguards during a live broadcast.

Decision time

Moscow: Eduard Shevardnadze, the Georgian leader, has told parliament that he will decide by today whether to resign after some opposition MPs had called on him to step down. (Reuters)

Mystery virus

Brisbane: An Australian race-horse trainer, Vic Rail, died of a heart attack as Australian authorities launched an international inquiry into a mysterious virus suspected of killing 12 of his horses. (AFP)

Mass murder

Stockholm: Mattias Flink, 24, Sweden's biggest mass murderer this century, has been sentenced to 14 years jail for killing seven people in the northern town of Falun when he ran amok with a gun.

Opium grant

Britain will make a grant of £3.6 million available to a drug control project in Pakistan to eliminate the growing of opium poppies. The money will go to the Dir district of the North West Frontier province.

Bardot at 60

Paris: Brigitte Bardot, who is 60 today, will celebrate her birthday by spending World Animal Day on Saturday at the Gennevilliers animal shelter, in north Paris, giving stray dogs for adoption. (Reuters)

Sharp shock

Rome: An Italian lawyer cut off his client's pony-tail in court as a reminder not to break the law after he was given a one-month suspended jail sentence for insulting a police officer. (Reuters)

Saudis hold scores of Islamic dissidents

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

SAUDI Arabia, autocratic possessor of the world's largest oil reserves, has launched its biggest campaign against religious conservatives seeking political reform and a more rigid imposition of Islamic values.

The official Saudi Press Agency yesterday reported an announcement from the Interior Ministry confirming that a dissident Muslim sheikh and 110 of his followers have been detained in connection

with attempts to create "chaos and dissension" in conjunction with groups abroad. They included two leading Islamic clerics who had refused to sign a pledge not to hold public meetings or make provocative speeches.

Dissident Saudi groups abroad, notably the London-based committee for the defence of legitimate rights, a pro-fundamentalist organisation, claim the number of arrests was much greater than

admitted. They allege that troops in armoured personnel carriers were used to surround mosques in troubled areas. The arrests are the climax of a propaganda battle by fax and illegal tape cassettes against the Saudi regime, notably King Fahd, now in his 70s and suffering health problems. The regime is trying to cope with an internal struggle for the succession.

In addition to the fundamentalists, who last year es-

tablished the kingdom's first human rights group which was swiftly shut down, the King is also facing discontent from young liberals at the other end of the political spectrum. They are demanding Western-style social and economic reforms.

His dilemma is compounded by accusations of financial mismanagement and an economic crisis brought about by an oil-price slump and years of overspending.

Pope postpones return to work

FROM JOHN PHILLIPS IN ROME

THE Pope is to delay returning from his summer palace to the Vatican until this weekend, to allow him more time for recovery from surgery on his leg. Vatican sources said yesterday.

The 74-year-old Pope will travel to Rome today for his weekly audience with pilgrims, but then will return in the afternoon to his residence at Castelgandolfo in the Alban hills south of Rome where he is undergoing physiotherapy, including swimming three

times a day, to hasten healing of his right leg broken in a fall in April, the sources said. He is now expected to return to Rome on Saturday.

Concern about the Pope's health began to mount last week after he abruptly postponed a trip he was to make to the United States next month.

The latest delay means that Cardinal Bernard Gantin, the dean of the College of Cardinals, will celebrate in place of the Pope the traditional Mass in memory of Paul VI and

John Paul I in St Peter's basilica this afternoon. Cardinal Gantin, the first black African College dean, has been regarded as a potential successor to the Pope, although many observers regard him as too old at 72.

The Pope will now receive the credentials of the first Israeli Ambassador to the Holy See at Castelgandolfo tomorrow instead of at the Vatican. Officials insist that the Pope has no health problems other than his leg injury.



Christ the Saviour Cathedral which dominated Moscow until pulled down in 1931

Russians rebuild cathedral Stalin razed

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN MOSCOW

THE Russian Orthodox Church has begun work on its most ambitious project for nearly a century, when builders this week started the reconstruction of Moscow's giant Cathedral of Christ the Saviour.

The multimillion-pound plan is seen as an important test of strength for Russia's once mighty official religion, which today is enjoying an extraordinary rebirth across the country after the return of its properties. Scores of workers were yesterday fencing off the area where the cathedral once stood in central Moscow until its destruction by the Bolsheviks, who turned it into the world's largest open-air swimming pool.

"When I came to Moscow 25 years ago I prayed that this church would be rebuilt in my lifetime, and now I will see it happen... this is where Heaven and

Earth come together in Russia," said Father John Klimenko, an Orthodox priest who watched with obvious satisfaction as workmen prepared to pull down the crumbling swimming baths, long since abandoned.

In spite of his enthusiasm for the rebuilding project, not everybody is as optimistic that the plan will go smoothly. The original building, commissioned after Napoleon's retreat from Russia in 1812, took 60 years to complete. When it was opened the design was criticised for being too big and too ugly, in a city which boasts hundreds of smaller and more beautiful churches.

Stalin had the cathedral razed in 1931 and planned to build in its place a giant Palace of Soviets, taller than the Empire State Building and topped with the world's biggest statue of Lenin. That

project was shelved when the costs became too great. However, the new plan is not without its critics. The proposal to finish the church in time for Moscow's 850th anniversary in 1997, is seen by many as foolhardy for a building the size of St Paul's. Also questions have been raised over the cost.

There is concern about the interior design of the church, which will be the responsibility of Ilya Glazunov, a populist artist whose blunt nationalist artwork has attracted critical acclaim from the likes of Vladimir Zhirinovskiy, the ultra-nationalist leader.

The mixed emotions were possibly best summed up by Moscow's *Nezavisimaya Gazeta* newspaper. "The only thing worse than the destruction of the Church of Christ the Saviour could be its reconstruction," said the daily.

seat you wouldn't be nudging your neighbour.

The British Fashion Awards 1994

Winners in the style stakes



Designer of the year contenders: from the left, creations by Vivienne Westwood, Ghost, John Galiano



... and, from the left, by John Rocha (winner of last year's award), Katharine Hamnett and Rifat Ozbek

If any further demonstration was needed that glamour is well and truly back in fashion, the Lloyds Bank British Fashion Awards 1994, which take place next week on Thursday evening, will provide the proof. The British fashion industry will turn out in their most glittering get-ups to attend the event at the Natural History Museum in Kensington, west London. The annual awards show has become for the fashion world what the Oscars are to the film industry.

This year's awards show

promises to provide a dazzling start to London Fashion Week, which, beginning on Friday, October 7, manages to pack 29 shows into just three days. A reception hosted by Michael and Anne Heseltine at Lancaster House on Friday evening gives everyone the chance to do themselves up again. This party is unmissable as the guest of honour will be the Princess of Wales, who has become something of an ambassador for the British fashion industry.

It's not just the clothes which are brighter this season:

the spirit of optimism within the industry is almost palpable. More importantly, the interest of the international press and buyers has been rekindled.

The Lloyds Bank British Fashion Awards are the focus of the week and the sheer diversity of British fashion on show is reason enough to celebrate: from the high fashion stars who shine brightly alongside the international designers, to the high street companies who provide the highlights of fashion at affordable prices, not forgetting the

ship manager at Lloyds Bank plc, is more than happy with the returns on the company's investment. "It guarantees us high-profile television coverage to ten million viewers and widespread national press coverage, all of which portrays the bank as a supporter of the best of British fashion," he says. Which is exactly what will be parading the catwalk next week.

The fashion world may not be as familiar with sponsorship deals as the arts and sport, but the list of major consumer companies following the lead of Lloyds Bank continues to grow. Companies including Vidal Sassoon, Perrier, Vitel, Esprit and Gossard have added their support.

Marks and Spencer is sponsoring this season's New Generation show, encouraging the latest crop of young designers who will become fashion's future. This makes good business sense. Marks and Spencer is sponsoring the lead of Lloyds Bank continues to grow. Companies including Vidal Sassoon, Perrier, Vitel, Esprit and Gossard have added their support.

M&S employs Paul Smith and Betty Jackson as consultant designers to add a fashion focus to its merchandise. The New Generation designers will become the next generation's Smiths and Jacksons, and could one day be stocked at a store near you.



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ABOVE: Classic Design nomination: jacket, £239; trousers, £139, sweater, £69, Jaeger, from selected branches nationwide

ABOVE LEFT: Design-Led Retailer and Classic Design nomination: mohair tunic, £25, slip dress, £45

Marks and Spencer, from selected branches, from October

LEFT: M&S Dash/Thom Cash nomination: jacket, £115, waistcoat, £64.95, shirt, £34.95, Monix, from Fenwick's

101 New Bond Street, W1; Way In at Harrods, Knightsbridge, SW1; Bentalls; Kingston; Wade Smith; Liverpool; and major department stores nationwide

LLOYDS BANK BRITISH FASHION AWARDS 1994 NOMINATIONS

British Design — the New Generation: Alexander McQueen, Copperwheel Blundell, Paul Frith, Sonja Nuttall, Sonnetag Mulligan, Abe Hamilton

Accessory Designers: Anya Hindmarch, Jimmy Choo, Manolo Blahnik, Patrick Cox, Philip Treacy, Wright & Teague

Glamour: Amanda Wakeley, Ben de Lisi, Bruce Oldfield, David Fielden, Rifat Ozbek, Tomasz Starzewski

M&S Dash/Thom Cash: Fern Wright & Manson, French Connection, Jeffrey Rogers, Monix, Pamplonhouse, Red or Dead

Design-Led Retailer: Jigsaw, Joseph, Oasis, Warehouse, Whistles, Marks and Spencer

Classic Design: Marks and Spencer, Aquascutum, Austin Reed, Jaeger, Mulberry, Jigsaw

Knitwear Design: Laineys Keogh, Artwork, John Smedley, Joseph, Merion Fosse, Rino da Prato

Designer of the Year: Vivienne Westwood, Rifat Ozbek, John Rocha, John Galiano, Katharine Hamnett, Ghost

HOTLINE

● A NEW sophistication is sweeping through the house of Aquascutum. Strong modern classics are the order of the day. Aquascutum is holding a readers' evening on Tuesday October 18 at its flagship store in Regent Street to view the winter collection. £10 gift vouchers will be given for every £100 spent during the course of the evening. Admission will be by ticket only from *The Times* Promotion Department, 1 Virginia Street, London E1 9BD.

● THE success of Patrick Cox's Warmabe shoe collection has been phenomenal. Saturday shoppers, eager to purchase the mock snakeskin, bright satin or patent leather re-design of a classic loafer have to queue outside Cox's SW3 emporium. Now plans are afoot to expand the Cox empire further with a clothing, sports shoe and accessory line at a new location early next year. The main-line collection will stay at 8 Symonds Street, SW3.

● HANDBAG designer extraordinaire Anya Hindmarch has designed a new collection of small leather classics, including "escape" purses, just large enough to hold coins and a credit card, and scaled-down bags. Available at the end of this month from Anya Hindmarch, First Floor, 91 Walton Street, SW3.

RACHEL COLLINS



British design: the new generation who are fashion's future
ABOVE: Sonja Nuttall
LEFT: Copperwheel Blundell
FAR LEFT: Alexander McQueen
Catwalk photographs: CHRIS MOORE and ANDREW THOMAS



Mary Norden's Houses for EHRMAN TAPESTRY

Reminiscent of American patchwork quilts, Mary Norden's houses make a lovely geometric patterned cushion. On a background the houses themselves are stitched in different combinations of cherry and tomato red, georgian green, a grey, airforce and marine blue and soft chestnut brown.

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Far from being gloomy, Thatcher's children see a future full of opportunity, but distrust politicians and see little point in voting

Can youthful optimism save Britain?

The young have always been a mystery to the middle-aged. Their views are either ignored or simply assumed to be the same as those of their elders. And to the extent that young people are seen as different, they are often represented as a disruptive intrusion into the stable lives of the rest of society: joyriders at one extreme; and slackers at the other.

This could not be more misguided, according to a report to be published by the independent think-tank, Demos, tomorrow. While politicians paint a picture of a Britain that has lost its way, in which society is fragmenting, and pessimism is endemic, the report's author, Helen Wilkinson (herself 29), finds that Britons aged between 18 and 34 are more optimistic than ever. They attach great value to individualism — both to personal autonomy and the responsibility that goes with it. They

expect to fulfil their potential in life. And young men as well as women see this happening to both sexes.

What are rejected by the young are pessimism, deference, paternalism, rigid moral codes, authoritarian values and family values: in other words, the very agenda which Conservative politicians are likely to put forward at their party conference in two weeks' time. Even Tony Blair's reported concern about one-parent families may put off this new, liberated generation. No wonder that voter turnout is lowest in the youngest age groups.

The legacy of Thatcherism, then, is a generation with many of the values that she sought to inculcate: self-reliance,

aspiration, a willingness to take risks, and high motivation: albeit within a framework of liberal social values that would be anathema to her. But what she probably did not foresee was that this shift in values would produce an alienation from the political system. Young people no longer seek solutions from politicians, they mistrust their promises and are so cynical about their motives that many prefer not to vote at all.

It is not surprising really that young people feel so distanced from Westminster. In many respects, politics are



MARY ANN SIEGHART

behind the times. It is considered laughable, for instance, that the Liberal Democrats should vote to decriminalise cannabis, even though most young people have smoked it, and a lot of their elders want to see it legalised. Changes in the world of work too seem to pass virtually unnoticed by politicians. Women have been trying to juggle children and careers for several decades now, yet hear barely a word about their problems, and receive even less help, from ministers. Men too find that their parental responsibilities are ignored; and when an opportunity

arises from Europe to help them to stay at home for a time, unpaid, with their small babies, they find it blocked by a politician with no children of his own.

Yet these voters can surely be tempted back into active democracy. It is, admittedly, easier for Labour than the Tories to do this, since they are less reliant on older, more traditional supporters.

But Labour too would have to understand that the young are likely to be put off by big government. As passionate individualists, they do not want politicians interfering in their lives: merely providing an infrastructure of support that allows them to pursue their aspirations.

As 18 to 34-year-olds make up only a third of the electorate, politicians may feel that they have more to gain by preaching the old values. But people in the younger generation are growing up, and while their attachment to family values may strengthen as they have children, they are unlikely to relinquish most of their other beliefs. Political parties cannot afford to alienate them.

And rather than constantly bewailing the state of Britain, perhaps it is time to share some of the optimism of the young. Young people are being promoted faster and given responsibility younger. And they are enjoying the softening of class rigidities, which is giving to this country some of the best aspects of America.

Britain too is becoming a "can-do" society. Luckily young people seem enterprising enough to seize the chances life offers them. That alone should make Britain a happier, more optimistic place.

CHRIS HARRIS

Dennis Hopper — wild man of Hollywood

When Dennis Hopper turns up on screen, audiences titter unhappily. Those ice-blue eyes, that hacking laugh, signal only one thing: some innocent is about to be horribly tortured or spectacularly killed.

In *Speed*, Hopper's latest extravaganza, it's a poor security guard who gets it through the ear with a screwdriver, because he politely attempted to stop Mr Hopper (a.k.a. Howard Payne) from inserting a bomb in a lift shaft. "Nothing personal," says Payne, before going on to massacre a few cops and booby trap a Los Angeles bus so that it will explode once its speed drops below 50mph.

At the age of 58, Hopper has an assured status as Hollywood's number one maverick. Since his comeback in 1986 as the deliciously demented Frank Booth in *Blue Velvet*, he has been on a psychotic treadmill. He was a snarling southern bigot in *Paris Trout*, a deranged human in *Red Rock West* and next year he will play — surprise — a black-brained pirate in *Waterworld*, a Kevin Costner film billed as the most expensive movie ever.

He has come a long way from the days when he breakfasted on beer, had half a gallon of rum for lunch and ended the day with a "speed-ball", heroin and cocaine shot straight into a vein.

No studio then would touch him, but he has been clean now for 12 years. Sitting opposite me in a Knightsbridge hotel suite, he is a dream interviewee: courteous, funny and unlikely to go berserk with a pickaxe, despite the bald head, which he assures me has been shaved for thespian purposes. He sits for photographs like a puppy and only occasionally sears you

Psychopath roles are good news for the reformed

Easy Rider star.

Julia Llewellyn Smith reports

with his intense gaze. Hopper knows that he has had a lucky escape from his past.

"Is this the peak of my career?" he muses in a Californian drawl. "That would be nice to think. I don't know. It shows that if you just live long enough you can see anything happen. It's certainly ironic that I'm in the most expensive movie ever made, which is being produced by Universal, the people who turned down *The Last Movie*."

The Last Movie was Hopper's directorial folly, a huge project launched after his success with *Easy Rider*, the plot was about a movie company making a western in a remote Peruvian village. It took Hopper two booze-fuelled years to edit it and although it won the Venice Film Festival, Universal never distributed it. Hopper was blacklisted and retreated to his home in Taos, New Mexico and consoling himself with more chemicals.

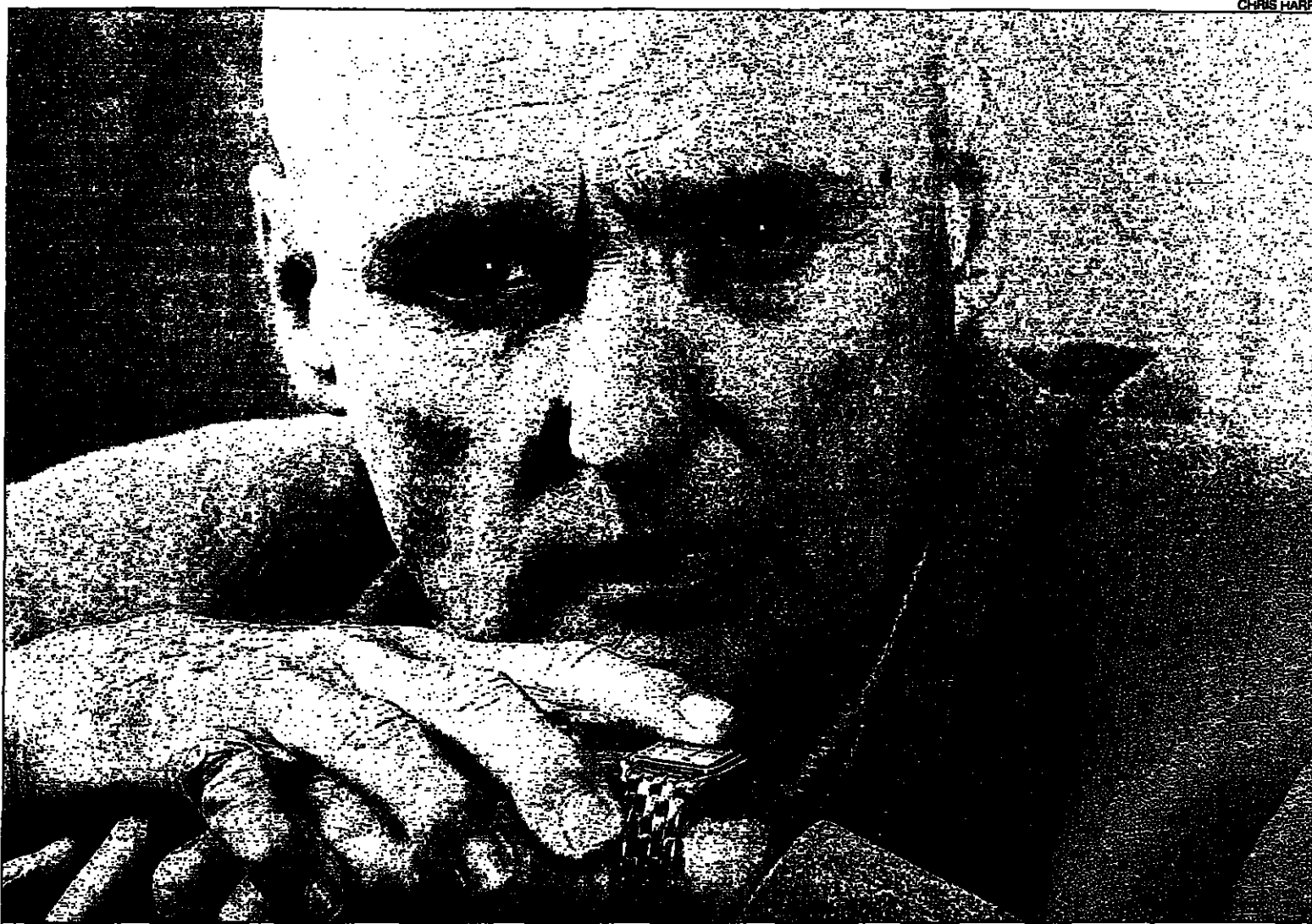
"Yeah, some of them were very good drugs," he says. "They work for the moment. I hear even some extroverts like them. All my heroes are drug addicts, so it was very easy for me. Saying 'I'm an artist' is a great device when you are in total denial. You say let's talk about 'Baudelaire', Henry Miller, W.C. Fields, John Barrymore, blah, blah, blah. But all these people ended up rather tragically. Drugs work

for a while and then they don't work any more."

It was a lost decade and one that Hopper fervently regrets. Remind the boy from Kansas that he has worked with some of the movie greats, from James Dean (in *Rebel Without a Cause* and *Giant*), to Elizabeth Taylor, John Wayne and Jodie Foster, and he merely sighs.

"I'm not terribly excited about my career," he says bluntly. "My most productive period was lost in being an enfant terrible. My body of work was a mixed bag. Vincent Price used to say that I would make a great heavy. I was going to be a leading man. I always thought some day I'd play King Lear, that somewhere inside me there was a Gandhi." Heroes among his contemporaries are Harvey Keitel and Anthony Hopkins. "No question about it," says Mr Loony, eyes virtually misting over. "The *Remains of the Day* was an excellent movie."

Hollywood took Hopper back on sufferance and he will do its bidding. "I play psychos because they're offered to me. I'm just not offered anything else. I have a little son (Henry Lee) who's four. He saw *Super Mario Brothers* where I play Cooper, the evil lizard. He said: 'I saw you play the evil lizard. Why did you do that?' To buy you shoes." He said: "I don't need shoes that badly." He has nothing to be ashamed of with *Speed*, which, despite barely scratching Hopper's abilities, has one of the slickest and scariest scripts of the year. The star billing, however, does not go to Hopper, but to a bristling-headed, pectorally perfect LA cop played by Keanu Reeves.



Dennis Hopper: "All my heroes are drug addicts. But they ended up tragically. Drugs work for a while, and then they don't work any more."

"I worked with Keanu before on *River's Edge*. He was a very dedicated young actor then, a very introverted, shy person. He doesn't participate in the social life of Hollywood; he never stops working. Women love this film because he's all bearded up and looking like a bulldog. They think it's wonderfully romantic."

In the movie, Hopper plays the disgruntled former cop who was cheated by the force, while Reeves is the pretty-boy face of the Establishment. It's easy to make parallels with real life, especially when Howard Payne lectures his fresh-faced enemy: "You can't understand the commitment I made." How does the original easy rider feel when surfer dudes like Keanu describe him as a role model? "Oh pretty good," says Hopper, looking away. After all, these days he works out, goes to bed early

and, after four marriages, he has settled for happy cohabitation with Victoria Duffy, a 20-something actress who can hardly have been nodding when he wrote, directed and starred in *Easy Rider* 25 years ago. "Yeah, *Easy Rider*. It was an experience," he says with characteristic understatement. "It made a lot of change, however temporary. There were no independent movies at that time. Unfortunately, that has died recently."

And how did he feel watching some mud-splattered teenagers try to recreate a no-drinks, no-drugs spirit of Woodstock in August? "Woodstock? I also heard they wanted to make some money. It was nice to see all the young people. Basically I'm an old conservative, who was an ageing hippy, who's been in this business 40 years and is lucky to still be around."

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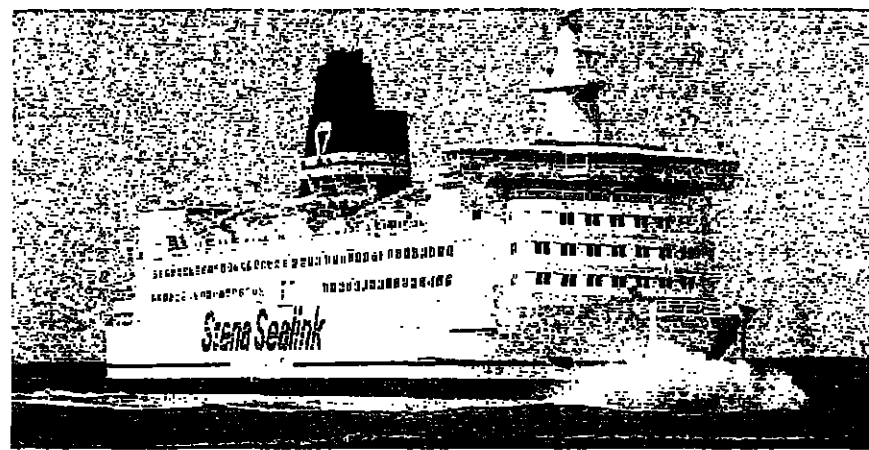
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Will the real Archers please stand up?

The game of turning Ambridge into a real place has gone crazy out of control

A FEW weeks ago I knew the world had gone mad. An invitation, a proper stiffie, arrived bidding me to attend the wedding, on September 29, 1994, of Miss Elizabeth Archer to Mr Nigel Pargetter in the Ambridge parish church, and afterwards at Brookfield. Moreover, inside the card was written — in different-coloured ink — the legend "Can you give Tom and Pru a lift?"

Now there is no such place as Ambridge, no Pargetter, no Elizabeth Archer. There is no wedding tomorrow; it is a recording tape on a rack in Birmingham. This invitation, however, was not accompanied by explanatory hype, it just came, as if there were a real Ambridge. I thought it was sent out by some press officer with straws in his hair, deranged by years of the steadily increasing pretence that the radio soap is real. But according to the press office, it was just a lunatic fan this time, crazed by the growing credulity trend. I suppose the real press office are kept far too busy forcing unfortunate actors, who never look much like the characters they

play, to have their pictures taken for tomorrow's tabloids.

They may not, of course, need forcing. Another peculiar thing about pretence that Ambridge is real has been that the actors have joined in. Normally, actors in soaps hate any attempt to identify them with their roles. Fans who rush up to Peter Baldwin of *Coronation Street* with the words "Derek, you'll lose Mavis if you're not careful!" will get little beyond a polite smile from that cultured, model-theatre collecting man. Most actors spend a lot of time insisting "the character's nothing like me". But already ten years ago Trevor Harrison was making public appearances in a horned hat as Eddie Grundy: I was forced to interview him in character once, a professional



LIBBY PURVES

disgrace from which I have never recovered. Today the Archers Addicts fan club is run by the cast. Some of them toured the country in a pretend amateur-dramatic production by their characters last winter. There is a mass convention next month. Hedli Nicklaus, who plays Kathy Perks, is a prime mover: cynics might say that she has hit on the one sure way to stop the treacherous BBC from pushing her under a milk float the way they did Sid Perks's last wife.

But I suspect it is more than that. The game is out of control. What started in Mrs Thatcher's entrepreneurial Britain as a way to sell mugs and cookbooks has become, in John Major's, a security blanket. It is our Mickey Mouse: a symbol far bigger

than the actual product, an uneven radio soap, can ever be. The next production is *The Book of The Archers*, a biographical dictionary of Ambridge. Advance proofs enable me to tell you that tomorrow's wedding does take place: the date is there. It also enables me, stop press, to reassure you that Shula does not miscarry her baby, because cryptic entry reads "Baby Hebdren, b. date to come, two lines of copy to come".

BUT THE book is of the new, believing age. Just as Disney insists we never see Mickey with his head off, we are told nothing: we get Grace Archer's life, but not that they killed her to upstage the launch of ITV. We have an obituary of Mark Hebdren, but not the actor's immortal remark: "I was very boring and deserved to die." There is none of the grit, the toil, the backstage camp.

Instead of the wedding invitation, I would have loved a picture of them all standing actorishly around their microphones, singing and sniffling on cue. We are not in Disneyland. We can take it, honest.

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Alan Coren



■ Far from celebrating celebrities, we want to see them laid out

I have a television project. Nothing remarkable in that, you say, everybody has one. You cannot go anywhere these days without their button-holing you about it: the cabbie driving you to dinner has this great idea for a 12-part sit-com called "Where to, Guv?", at the dinner itself the woman on your right cannot wait to tell you about "Gallimaufry", her knockout idea for a series on small boat cookery plus paperback tie-in and apron franchise; you escape from her only to fetch up against the spilted lip of the accountant on your left who has just sent off his outline treatment for "Deduction!" a peak-time quiz based on Schedule D, but before he can elaborate, the ENT consultant opposite launches excitedly into his idea for "Sign Here", an epoch-making chat show for the deaf — and when, as the result of all this distraction, you bust a molar on an unspotted pellet in the pheasant and find yourself next morning in your dentist's chair, the drill is not even in first gear before he is gabbling about "Your Teeth in their Hands", think of it as *Casualty*, open wide, please, but set in this inner-city dental practice, see, and...

TV projects are to the post-industrial age what inventions were to the Victorian: means by which, given the voraciousness of a market generated by public gullibility, an amateur crackpot might just get lucky. Every day, dozens of television companies are plagued by hundreds of postmen dragging thousands of sacks, each filled with the project-equivalent of electro-magnetic interference, TNT mouse-traps, self-cleaning gumboots, depilatory soap, and other such gee-gaws on which our technomaniac forebears based their dreams of fortune.

And mine? Mine came to me on Monday morning; but it might well not have come at all had I not already been thinking about the vogue for what smart-arses probably describe as ironic self-referential post-modern metafiction, but you and I think of just as TV shows about TV shows — this is David Harper, *The Day Today*, *Acorn Antiques*, *Knowing Me, Knowing You*, *Pat and Margaret*, *White Goods* — which are the derisive obverse of the mass-audience pabulum whose subversion is their satirical grist. What could do more to confirm Melvyn's view of the yob/snob divide than the blue-collar hordes applauding some grisly game-show even while their white-collar countrymen cackle over its clever-dogged parody?

Not that, frankly, I give a damn. I was turning these thoughts over at the weekend solely in the hope that some tasty little project of my own might surface: surely some pop remained as yet unsharpened, from the sending-up of which fat profit might ensue? But nothing did, so at 2am I binned the shredded notes for "Blind Divorce", and went to bed; unaware that at that very moment something was happening which was all I could have sought. What was happening was that Oliver McCall's fist was connecting with Lennox Lewis's mouth.

The result being not merely that the world heavyweight title changed hands, but that a glittering audience in Thames TV's studios was forced to get back in its charabanc, and go home. Because the subject of the *This Is Your Life* for which they had convened was to have been the man now nursing a lip like an inner-tube, and the programme-makers had decided that TTL was not about failure.

You catch, I know, my drift. My project is no mere opportunist parody of *This Is Your Life*, my project is "This Is Really Your Life". We have had quite enough of the illustrious smug being fawned upon by long-lost schoolchums and transglobal relatives and keen to annotate their lauded biographies. We want war and all, we want insurance, forced to account for their cock-ups to make us feel less badly for ours, we want rogues and crooks conned into turning up at bogus rendezvous so that Aspel can throw the book at them, we want to see long-lost enemies flown in so that we may watch the subject turn pale and stagger at their hidden voices, we want to see men with writs march through the curtains, and women with offspring uncannily resembling the guest, we would not be averse to seeing the odd poke in the mouth or citizen's arrest.

I shall phone a few top TV guys now. They will all, I feel sure, want to take it. The alternative is being on it.



UNSEATING OF JOCKEY VERDICT (NEWS ITEM)

Home Office crime

Fear of crime is self-fulfilling, but scare stories about rising lawlessness no longer suit the police and politicians

Read that headline carefully. Revel in it. "The biggest fall in crime for 40 years." There is no crime wave after all. There is a crime trough. Help is at hand for embattled ministers. Come Master Shallow, come Bardolph and Pistol, we must hasten to court. Jack Falstaff will hear the chimes at midnight.

Yesterday's British crime figures are indeed a surprise, but not the surprise suggested above. The phoney ones have fallen. The real ones have risen. Anybody listening to the BBC yesterday will have heard the opposite, but that is what the Government hoped. Most of the press bought the same story. I sense that the Home Secretary, Michael Howard, knew the truth. He shrewdly absented himself from yesterday's press conference, leaving his junior minister, David Maclean, to issue one of the most mendacious press releases I have ever read.

Let me say it again. Crime figures gathered at local police stations are a hopeless index of public or private wrongdoing. They record just a third of actual crime, and they distort its rise or fall over time. They are meaningless. Yet policemen bidding for resources, newspapers bidding for headlines and politicians bidding for votes still find them a happy hunting-ground. The worst culprit was Tony Blair as Labour home affairs spokesman. Let one police statistic drop from the sky and the jackals pounce, salivating.

Nothing in even the sordid history of crime statistics equals yesterday's farago. The fall of 5.5 per cent in total crimes recorded at police stations over the past year is due to a steep fall in theft and burglary, which comprise 94 per cent of the total. There is no evidence that this reflects any fall in crime. The biggest reduction came in the last two quarters, when most people renew their insurance. Premiums soared last year, leading to reduced cover, higher "excess" exclusions and restricted payments by insurers. Property crime victims were less widely insured (by at least 5 per cent), and when burgled they made fewer claims that required a report to a police station. There has been an extraordinary 6 per cent fall over the past two years in insurance claims by victims.

Another reason for the fall could be the trauma that most police forces have been through this past year. Criticism of police productivity and the imminence of performance measures have led policemen to be more chary of

putting reported crimes into their incident books. A fall in recorded crime can mean success for a police division and a rise in the clear-up percentage. More crime used to mean more resources, whereas now less crime can mean higher pay. For the first time, policemen have a financial incentive to record less crime. The policies of law and order no longer leads to higher crime figures. It demands the opposite. And surprise, surprise, the police figures have fallen.

The police may say that the new "targeting" policy for burglary is working; for instance Operation Bumblebee in London. It would be nice if this were true, but recorded burglary has fallen equally in areas with no targeting, such as Manchester. Nobody knows whether targeting works. Meanwhile, property crime bulks so large in the national crime total that it overwhelms more serious crimes, such as violence against the person, which continue to rise. The Government might as well lump together cancer and in-growing toenails to get an index of the nation's health. Such aggregation is an insult to public intelligence. Yesterday's much-trumpeted fall in crime was "technical". There was no fall in crime.

For proof, we need only turn to another document issued yesterday from the Home Office. It was the official twice-yearly British Crime Survey. In contrast to the police figures, this survey is reputable and authoritative, a costly investigation into how much crime Britons experience each year. Normally it would merit a press conference of its own. Yesterday, Mr Maclean barely mentioned it. His release nowhere indicated what the survey said: that far from falling, crime actually rose faster over the past two years than during the 1990s. These press officers should be ashamed of such suppressio veri, suggestio falsi. Are they professionals or political hacks?

The British Crime Survey flatly contradicted the technical fall indicated by the police figures. Throughout the 1980s, it showed a slow rise in the public's experience of crime, at a time when police figures were going through the roof. Now, in the 1990s the British Crime Survey suggests that all categories of crime are rising faster, not slower. Yesterday's figures were not good at all.

Over the latest survey period — 1991 to 1993 — crimes experienced by the public rose by 18 per cent across all categories of offence — vandalism, burglary and violence against the person. Rises were strong in vandalism and in property crime in the non-metropolitan South of England. Car crime has risen fast, though better security has led to the biggest rise being in attempted rather than actual theft. Fewer people bother to report attempted thefts to the police.

The police figures over the same two-year period, comparing like with like, show a rise of just 7 per cent (including the past year's fall). The Home Office's own research document is emphatic about the reason for this blatant divergence. The public is less inclined to report trivial offences to the police, and the police are less inclined to record them when reported. Police figures have fallen, says the Home Office, "because the proportion of crimes reported to the police has fallen". This was not the impression created yesterday by the minister, David Maclean.

Where does this leave a thesis beloved of this column, that "there is no crime wave"? The answer is that I stand on the only remotely solid ground visible above these quicksands, the British Crime Survey. This has always shown a rise in experienced crime, but not an exponential one. It is now showing a slight increase in that figure. Britons appear to be more conscious of criminality, and claim to have suffered more of it with

each passing year. They are certainly more fearful. That is all we know.

At such times, most citizens fall back on hunch, and pretend that hunch is not prejudice. I believe that crime is not "out of hand", but that misbehaviour changes its character with time. Each year we define more anti-social but legal behaviour as crime, never the reverse. We know that fewer young people are becoming criminals, but that those who do go on to commit more crimes. (This perhaps vindicates Mr Howard's view that police and magistrates should concentrate on fewer, tougher young offenders: in which case the criminal justice system needs urgent reform.)

Each year we are more protective of our property, of which we have more, and are less tolerant of vandals, rowdies, sneak thieves and foulmouths. When asked by a pollster if we have encountered more such people, we are likely to say yes. We are more aware of areas of rising crime — better roads bring urban villains into the countryside — than of falling crime elsewhere. Publicity alerts us to crime and helps us to recall incidents that we might have forgotten.

What to do about all this nobody has the faintest clue. Stuffing jails with petty thieves, debtors and drug addicts is costly lunacy. The huge increase in policing — 50 per cent in real terms — that has been brandished at crime over the past 15 years has had no effect, nor has similar spending on prisons. A sensible observer would have to conclude that current crime policies are not just hopeless but counterproductive. They are the Tory equivalent of Labour's industrial subsidies in the 1970s. Policing does not work. Prison does not work. Probation does not work. Villains go about their business like locusts immune to pesticide. They always have. I imagine they always will.

The best face to be put on the Home Office's statistical juggling is that its apparent belief that crime is now falling faster than for 40 years should at least mean reduced pressure on police and prisons and less money squandered on law and order. The television companies might lay off their crime-scatter programmes. Politicians might stop fostering fear of crime. This bright-eyed subject might drop back down the political agenda. Then, who knows, crime might really start to fall.

Simon Jenkins

Pied à terre

A MYSTERY buyer has snapped up two of the smartest houses in London just yards from Kensington Palace, the home in the capital of the Princess of Wales. The price of numbers 18 and 19 Kensington Palace Gardens, a private road belonging to the Crown Estate and guarded by police, is believed to have broken new records for the sale of residential property in Britain.

One estate agent claimed that bidding for the two homes, sold on a Crown lease of around 60 years, reached more than £30 million. "But that's not all. They need total modernisation and that could come to a further £10 million at least. We're heading for *The Guinness Book of Records* here."

The Crown Estate confirms that the sale has taken place. "Numbers 18 and 19 Kensington Palace Gardens were sold on a long lease for a very substantial figure for refurbishment." The estate refuses to elaborate on the sale for security reasons — the Israeli Embassy in Kensington Palace Gardens was subject to a bomb attack earlier this year — but agents believe the two houses are to be converted into one dwelling.

"They are certainly destined for



private use. It's either a development or it's one home for a very rich individual," says one. "The money involved is phenomenal." The two buildings were used respectively as a Russian Embassy building and the Egyptian consulate until their leases ran out last year.

Bedtime feast

THE LAST few days for the lawyer and epicurean Sir David Napley were not without suffering. But he was able to tuck into his favourite food shortly before heading for the final court of appeal. John Burton-Race, chief of L'Ortolan at Shinfield in Berks,

where Napley was the major shareholder, brought it to him in hospital.

Napley was a glutton for Burton-Race specials. In particular he enjoyed the terrine of globe artichokes with a chive sauce; sea bass in an oyster and champagne sauce; pig's trotters in a sauce gribiche; and finally orange and Grand Marnier soufflé. "I cooked most of his favourites about a week before he died and took them up to the hospital," says Burton-Race. "It was the first solid food he'd had for six weeks."

There's been a book on Lord Justice Scott's marathon inquiry into arms exports to Iraq. There's been a play, *Hall the Picture*, starring Sylvia Syms as Margaret Thatcher. Now the BBC is making a film version of the play, with the same cast as witnesses and the journalists playing themselves. Only one thing is missing. The Scott report is not expected until well into next year.

Ironed out

THE AUTHORS of that brutish attack on Margaret Thatcher in the early days of her premiership can at last be revealed. Stand up Michael Heseltine, Kenneth Baker and Viscount Whitlaw. Aldershot's curmudgeonly MP Julian

Critchley, who wrote the vitriol anonymously in *The Observer* in 1980 but was quickly rumoured, has named the guilty men behind the weasel words.

In his autobiography *A Bag of Boiled Sweets*, Critchley says that Thatcher was accused of "A-level economics" by Baker, a frustrated backbencher at the time. He says Willie Whitlaw labelled her "didactic, tart and obstinate". But the most insulting of accusations in Critchley's piece — that she was flying by the seat of her pants — was inspired by the man who brought her down. "The Cabinet minister worried about Mrs Thatcher's knickers," he says. "was Michael Heseltine."

IT'S SAFE TO COME OUT NOW MR HOWARD



Four decades in the Commons have taught Sir Edward Heath admirable patience. At the unveiling of his portrait by the Chinese artist Zhu Guang at the Royal Mews Gallery yesterday he explained that he was an excellent sinner. "But I didn't let the artist talk to me, so I could just sit and think and wasn't wasting my time. This Government gives one a lot to think about."

Vision of theft

THE PUBLISHING world is in uproar after the theft of Peter Ackroyd's latest biography en route to his publisher. Literary sabotage is suspected. The 700-page work on William Blake, completed after four years' endeavour, was snatched by an erudite mugger from a motorbike courier in the West End.

"The scooter rider saw someone running off down the street with it. It must have been a sneak from a certain rival publisher," explains Ackroyd's literary agent darkly. Ackroyd, who sensibly had a spare copy of his book tucked away, is sanguine. "It's extraordinary. But maybe whoever took it will enjoy reading it."

Peter Lilley's loyal canvassing companion will not be supporting him at the Tory conference next

month. Charlie, the Social Security Secretary's long-haired Jack Russell terrier, died at the weekend aged 15. The veteran campaigner was notable for sporting a blue rosette somewhat larger than himself.

Art failure

THE ROMANIAN National Opera has been singing lustily and to considerable acclaim at the start of its English tour. Would that such a successful story could be told of an exhibition of works by Romanian artists that is being staged to coincide with the tour. It nearly had to open today at the Mall Gallery without any paintings, after Customs impounded them.

The frames for the paintings arrived as scheduled. "They were sent ahead," says Ellen Kemp, the opera producer and exhibition organiser. "But the owner of 20 of the paintings, a Mr Barzucca (pronounced bazooka), decided to bring the paintings himself. Unfortunately, he had filled in the wrong forms and was hauled in by Customs. It was only the intervention of the Romanian President himself that ensured they arrived in time for the opening today."

Tax more to help the poor

Labour must be expansionist, says Mark Seddon

Given the Tories' record on tax, it was a bit rich of their deputy chairman to accuse Labour's new economic policies of not squaring the circle. The trouble is that there is a grain of truth in what John Major said in his interview on *Today*. For although Conservative promises of low taxes and greater efficiency have been broken, many Labour supporters are increasingly disturbed to see their own party drifting away from expansionary Keynesian interventionism towards fiscal conservatism. In particular they are asking themselves how Labour in government will fulfil its promises to stop the underfunding of the health and education services and set about creating full employment.

When Labour sympathisers at the Institute for Fiscal Studies began privately to voice their doubts about the drift in Labour's economic policies, as they did on Monday, something was seriously amiss. For Labour's economic strategists have embarked upon a new path which has huge dangers both for the party and for the country. We now face the prospect of the Conservative and Labour parties slugging it out at the next election, both claiming to be parties of low taxation, presumably with the Liberal Democrats claiming to be the only party to be honest about the need to increase taxes to fund key services.

No one would dispute that the poor in Britain are overtaxed (although whether tax cuts would make much difference to them is arguable), and no one would deny that unemployment is a huge waste or that resources could be better used to create proper jobs. But can we pretend that Labour now advocates low tax for everyone? After all, the wealthy, who have had a free ride on the privatisation and tax-cutting gravy-train in the past 15 years, should pay their dues, and most would be happy to do so if they thought that extra taxes would go towards education and health.

And what about the poorest in society, who have seen their living standards drop further, as the rich gained in successive budgets? What have we to say to them, and more to the point, do our leaders still believe in the redistribution of wealth?

The headlong flight from Keynesian economics leaves Labour vulnerable. For a start, if people do not believe that the Tories are a party of low taxation, why should they believe that Labour is? And isn't part of Labour's attraction its commitment to spend more? That is why the British people want the Tories out and Labour in.

We have to be honest and live up to the expectations of loyal supporters who have stuck by Labour through thick and thin. We should also recognise that there has been a long-term change in people's attitudes, and that we risk disappointing them by trying to fight the last election all over again. We did not lose the last election because of our tax plans. So the debate developing over our economic policy is not between the "old" Labour party and the "new" Labour party. The division is between those who want to see an expansionary Labour government and those who advocate policies which risk delivering an austerity Labour government.

It is essential that the Labour Party should know exactly what it intends to do by the time the next Labour minister walks into a department of state, and that we have a programme that unites the party. Yet the government is ambivalent. On the one hand there is an optimism that a popular new leadership can pull it off this time coupled with the knowledge that people are actually joining the party in significant numbers. On the other hand, there is the feeling that with its shift to the centre, the Labour Party has lost much of its old passion, and is no longer willing to challenge the central economic tenets of Thatcherism. We attack trickle-down economics, yet we seem to be saying that we are now a party of the free market, when in fact the public have more faith in a Keynesian mixed economy. We say that we are opposed to privatisation, yet beyond a call for more regulation we have failed to follow through with the popular demand that the utilities be brought back under public ownership. People know that when wages were public it was cheap and its managers were accountable. They also know that when coal was under public ownership there was a coal industry.

Most worrying of all, Labour now appears to be giving the impression of being equidistant between business and the trade unions, and suggesting that the latter cannot expect any special favours. This comes at a time when people in work have fewer rights than they did at the time of the General Strike, and when more and more workers are realising that the unions are the first and last line in their defence. Labour is of the unions, and it is the task of the party to help rebuild trade unionism.

Labour simply has to come to grips with the principal issue: the Tories set about shifting power and wealth to a minority at the top, and it is Labour's mission to shift it back to the majority.

Of course Labour needs the votes of disillusioned Conservative and Liberal voters in the South. But the real test for Labour is that we regain the support of those millions of mainly working-class voters who simply did not vote last time. They will only return if they believe that a Labour government can deliver.

The author is the editor of *Tribune*, Labour's independent weekly paper.

P.H.S



ECONOMICAL BELIEF

Blair and Brown have barely begun their battle to be trusted

Fewer people believe today that Labour would damage the economy than did so five years ago. That is the one comforting statistic for the Opposition from the latest NOP poll published this week. The same proportion of people now believe that Labour would raise taxes as did five years ago: voters are no more sanguine than in 1989 about whether Labour would reduce unemployment. After the replacement of two leaders, after the acceptance of the market economy and the modernisation of Labour's policies, the only benefit to the party's economic reputation is that fewer think that the party would do actual economic harm.

However, often its party spokesmen claim that Labour is economically competent and will not simply tax, borrow and spend, the public is unimpressed. Tony Blair and his shadow Chancellor, Gordon Brown, yesterday made an early start at trying to change their spots. Their claim is that Labour would be a better manager of the economy than the Tories. This is not an easy argument to make.

If Conservative ministers, with their reputation for toughness, cannot hold down public spending, how can their Labour counterparts be expected to? Labour says that the Conservatives' high spending is a direct result of their poor economic policies; that "rescue" spending on welfare is rising at the expense of "renewal" spending on education, health and infrastructure. Even if one accepts these categories, renewal spending has also risen in real terms, albeit less quickly than rescue spending. Moreover, the latter is not entirely in the Tories' hands. Much of the increase in welfare expenditure is a result of demographic changes, family breakdown, a growth in single motherhood and an ageing population. Labour would face the very same problems in government.

Yet Labour still remains committed to spending more on what Mr Brown called yesterday "our frontline caring services". The money, he says, will have to come not from higher borrowing or tax increases but either from economic growth or shifting spending from rescue to renewal. Such a

shift sounds more simple than it is. Welfare spending is led by demand; only by cutting benefits, reducing entitlement or putting the unemployed back to work can a government cut its rescue spending.

Taking the unemployed off benefit is Labour's aim. That would both save money in the medium term and add to economic growth. But policies such as paying employers to take on the long-term unemployed cost money initially; any savings come later. It costs money too to set up an environmental task force for the young unemployed. Labour cannot pretend that its good ideas are not expensive. If the Social Justice Commission's final report next month manages to identify enough savings in the welfare system to pay for any extra costs, that will help. But this is hardly a "new economics", as Mr Blair and Mr Brown proclaimed yesterday.

Supply-side measures may help the economy to grow faster without stoking up inflation. Or they may simply be a waste of money, since it is hard to ensure that people are trained in the right skills. What Labour should recognise is that there is no "new economics". The difference that a government can make is mainly negative: the Chancellor's most important task is to avoid gross errors in macroeconomic management, such as the ERM fiasco and the badly-timed cuts in taxes and interest rates which led to the Lawson boom. Avoiding such monetary and fiscal blunders could indeed raise Britain's long-term rate of growth and reduce the calls on the Treasury for rescue spending. Mr Brown's promise to make economic policymaking even more open should win some respectability on that score.

Labour's best hope, however, is to neutralise the economy as a political issue. It must persuade the public that it has at least caught up with the Tory centre in its acceptance of markets and free enterprise, and that it is no more incompetent than the Tories at managing a capitalist economy. That may be difficult — but if Labour can do so, it will have removed from its path one of the biggest obstacles to an election victory.

CLOSED CAMPUS

The new universities must be made more accountable

This week's reports that the Vice-Chancellor of Huddersfield University, Professor Kenneth Durrants, is to be given a £500,000 golden handshake reflect poorly on the reform of the higher education system. The universities are meant to be growing ever more accountable to taxpayers, competing with one another for funds and applicants. Yet few taxpayers would agree that a retiring vice-chancellor should be paid such a sum.

The ending of the divide between universities and polytechnics has been widely, perhaps excessively, applauded. Too little thought has been given to the separate question of the former polytechnics' constitutional position since they were withdrawn from local authority control. Many town halls were ill-equipped to manage the affairs of higher education institutions. In their place, however, have arisen small governing bodies whose members, often businessmen, were given lifetime appointments in the first instance by the Education Secretary and who will choose their own successors. Much of the money spent on the nation's universities is administered by placemen who are accountable in no meaningful sense. It may be surprising that foolish decisions of the kind alleged to have been taken at Huddersfield have not come to light before. It can only be hoped that this case proves to be exceptional.

The role of vice-chancellors has changed dramatically in the last ten years. More than ever, they are encouraged to behave as chief executives seeking competitive advantage rather than donnish hierarchs. Many of

them will expect to be paid more as they drive up standards and attract private funds. They will rightly resist bureaucratic regulation and Whitehall interference. But there is a limit to this process of disengagement. A public institution cannot be run like a private company without shareholders.

There must be new mechanisms of accountability to maintain the confidence of the public in the universities which it subsidises. This is particularly true of the 31 former polytechnics; but it also applies increasingly to the traditional universities, many of which are streamlining their decision-making councils and committees. A proper balance must be struck between executive efficiency and democratic safeguards.

A first step would be to introduce fixed terms for the governors of the former polytechnics. Far more information must be published about the remuneration of university staff, covering their perks and pension entitlements as well as their basic salaries. The Audit Commission should be able to examine the accounts of higher education institutions. The Higher Education Funding Council for England and the Committee of Vice-Chancellors and Principals must ensure that their new joint guidelines for governing bodies are comprehensive and absorb the lessons of this case. It is encouraging that the funding council is carrying out an investigation into the management of Huddersfield. The report will, however, remain unpublished — another sign of how much remains to be done.

THE PLAGUE

India's epidemic highlights cruel contradictions

The plague, that most darkly medieval of pestilences, has put the western Indian city of Surat on the Western map. As our Delhi correspondent reports, poor and rich alike have converged in fearful flight from the city and its surroundings, raising the spectre of an afflicted diaspora in such metropolitan cauldrons as Bombay. The world, which has observed avidly the course of economic reform charted by Narasimha Rao, the Prime Minister, has now been arrested by the glare of India's contradictions. For the plague has shown that the country, for all its advances and aspirations, is still prey to the horrors of centuries past.

India is no stranger to the plague. Two of the most polished — and disconcerting — modern Indian novels have featured the plague prominently in their narrative framework: U. R. Ananthamurthy's *Samskara* and Thakazhi Sivasankara Pillai's *Scapenger's Son*. Nor is the country its only theatre. Cases of the plague have been recorded recently in such places as Zaire, Madagascar, Brazil, Peru, China and even, remarkably to relate, California. Yet the recent outbreak of the infection in Surat is particularly disturbing for the number of lessons it teaches about modern India.

The city has seen not just an epidemic but also the collapse of its civic institutions. The distraught exodus of nearly 500,000 people — a quarter of the population — was

provoked not just by panic at the prospect of infection. It was, more accurately, a disturbing vote of no confidence in the administration, the health service, the forces of law and order and the whole concept of community. Evidence is now emerging that the city's doctors, on whose sense of duty in a time of crisis so much depended, were in the vanguard of the exodus.

The abandonment of Surat, and the flight from this 14th-century phenomenon, was made all the easier by the access to 20th-century mobility which the population enjoyed. This is the paradox of modern India: an infected man could hope to reach distant Delhi in a matter of hours; and Bombay is practically on Surat's doorstep.

The epidemic is a direct consequence of the conditions in which the people affected are forced to live, conditions provoked by misgovernment at every level from the municipal to the national. Seven hundred and fifty million Indians — a figure so startling that it is worth careful emphasis — live with no access to basic sanitation, according to the latest Human Development Report of the United Nations Development Programme. And according to World Bank figures, expenditure on health by the central government was a mere 1.6 per cent of total expenditure, with education at 2.1 per cent. In these cold figures lies the key to Surat's plague.

Employees' rights and family values

From Mr David A. Gillett

Sir, The issues of legislation on paternity leave and minimum wages have been prominent matters of debate between the European governments lately. I am disappointed at the lack of a Christian, or at least ethical, stance on why these matters should be supported.

Conservative politicians repeatedly warn of the disastrous effects of minimum wages upon small businesses, who rely on low-paid, often part-time employees. Why has nobody asked if it is fair to employ people for a pittance?

A successful market economy is an obvious prerequisite for the support of society. It must be realised, however, that the market system exists as a means of improving our lives; it is not a mammoth to be served in its own right.

It seems that in Britain, unlike many of our European counterparts, the market is being allowed to feed off doing exactly the opposite. We have a situation in which more commitment is required of the employee and less is offered by the employer. It is precisely the role of legislation to redress this situation.

Yours faithfully,
D. A. GILLETT,
17 Northam Gardens, Oxford.
September 26.

From Mr Simon Richey

Sir, The Government's decision not to allow the extended paternity leave enjoyed by some European countries (report, September 23) suggests that thousands of fathers may continue to find it hard to develop that early intimacy with their children which continuous and regular contact makes possible for a close relationship. Many mothers will be denied the father's moral and practical support at a time when help of this kind is so valuable.

Against this, the Government's argument that small businesses particularly stand to lose out if paternity leave is extended looks puny indeed.

Yours faithfully,
SIMON RICHEY,
145 Brecknock Road, N19.

From Mr H. W. Benstead

Sir, The declaration (report, September 14) by Alistair Burt, the social security minister, that a stable marriage is fundamental to the welfare of children, is evidently popular (letters, September 17). But is the Chancellor listening?

No one will believe that the Government is prepared to translate such common sense into policy unless, in the next Budget, he restores the value of the family allowance.

Yours faithfully,
H. W. BENSTEAD,
68 Riddlesdown Avenue,
Purley, Surrey.

From Mrs Judy Astley

Sir, Three months' statutory paternity leave is all very well if one's partner is a genuine right-on/hands-on 1990s New Man, but for most women the legislation will probably mean they will end up looking after one baby more than they actually gave birth to.

Yours faithfully,
JUDY ASTLEY,
2 The Embankment,
Twickenham, Middlesex.
September 27.

Europe's future

From Mr Tom Spencer, MEP for Surrey (European People's Party Parliamentary Group (Conservative))

Sir, The past few weeks have seen a number of important contributions to the debate on Europe's future, from Edouard Balladur, from the CDU, from John Major, and the address of Wilfried Martens, leader of the European People's Party Parliamentary Group. The debate thus engendered can only be healthy.

But it is to be hoped that it will be reported in a fuller and more accurate fashion than in your article. "Martens calls for new crusade by Euro-federalists" (September 21).

There is much in Mr Martens's speech with which Conservatives could agree, some things with which they would disagree, and others about which they would argue. But the crucial passage said:

The nation state will remain an effective and appropriate organisational structure because co-operation in Europe will relieve the pressure on it. "The nation" and Europe are not opposites; they complement each other, and they need each other if they are to become fully effective. To play off one against the other is to weaken both.

Yesterday, my colleagues and I took part in a good-natured debate in the EPP Group, under Mr Martens's chairmanship. The vast majority of speakers clearly rejected the concept advanced by the CDU paper of a two-speed, hard-core Europe (reports, September 8, 10), in a manner which would have saddened the Prime Minister's heart, had he been present.

Yours faithfully,
TOM SPENCER (Chairman),
British Conservatives
in the European Parliament,
2 Queen Anne's Gate, SW1.
September 22.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

Home comforts in judges' lodgings

From His Honour Peter Mason, QC

Sir, Circuit judges (especially the senior ones) try criminal cases as serious and complex as those tried by High Court judges. Yet when away from home, no judges' lodgings for them (reports, September 22, 23), only 2-star hotels selected and prescribed for them by the Lord Chancellor.

They need peace, quiet, refreshment and security too. But why the distinction? The logic escapes me.

Yours faithfully,
PETER MASON,
Lane Cottage,
Amberley, Gloucestershire.
September 24.

From Mr J. J. Rowe, QC

Sir, Litigants in large cases want a High Court judge, and the High Court is intended for just those. The public want a High Court judge for important cases. At present they get one but they will not do so if judges stop travelling to the circuits.

High Court judges bring a fresh attitude to local courts; they see faults local lawyers have become accustomed to, and they take back to London, to their fellow judges and the Court of Appeal, their impressions of practices on circuit in such things as sentencing or levels of personal injury damages.

As to their comfort in lodgings, I am not concerned with that, nor is a plaintiff who is a paraplegic or a defendant accused of a serious offence.

Local law societies and Bars should join their voices to ensure the judges keep travelling the circuits, just as they joined together in Manchester in 1971 to save the local Chancery court.

Yours faithfully,
J. J. ROWE,
(Leader, Northern Circuit, 1988-92),
2 Pump Court, Temple, EC4.

From Mr Colin Baser

Sir, In the late 1970s I was employed as an auditor in the Lord Chancellor's Department. During an examination

of the expenditure on judges' lodgings we were amazed at the cost of providing such trivial items as newspapers and magazines, as well as of maintaining a floral display in the foyer of lodgings.

We were able to persuade those responsible that some items were unreasonable but because of the power of the judges, any reduction in expenditure was minimal.

A few years later, in another branch of the department, an electrician told me that the previous evening his firm had been called out to change a light bulb in the judges' lodgings at a cost to the taxpayer of £25 — the minimum charge.

Yours faithfully,
COLIN BASER,
2 John Cabot Court,
Cumberland Close, Bristol.
September 22.

From Captain Jeremy Elwes, DL, President of the Shrievalty Association

Sir, Regarding judges' lodgings, it is very easy to destroy traditions and make commonplace the majesty of the law. Judges often have to be away from the comfort of their home and family for long periods when on circuit. They are not able to go into many public places in case they come in contact with persons involved in a case.

Judges are at times entertained, often at home, by the High Sheriff, who acts as a confidant. It is also important that they can give hospitality to members of the Bar, representatives of local government and particularly visiting overseas legal persons.

We have to have high-calibre judges in a democracy and must treat them with the respect and dignity they deserve.

Yours sincerely,
J. ELWES, President,
The Shrievalty Association,
Elsham Hall, Elsham,
Nr Brigg, South Humberside.
September 23.

Immigrants' fears

From the Reverend Theo Samuel, Moderator of the Churches Commission for Racial Justice

Sir, Bernard Levin ("Demeaning the Holocaust", September 16; letter, September 22) was severe in his criticism of our report, "Breaking up the Family", which describes the experiences of black families under British immigration law. We drew some parallels between the ordeals of these families and those of Jewish families in 1930s Germany.

We accept that nothing can compare with the Holocaust: this was not our intent. However, the persecution of the Jews in Germany, like other human atrocities, may well have begun in relatively minor ways — stones through the windows, abuse in the street, the early morning knock by authority — things which many black families face today.

If our parallels caused offence, we are sorry. As a national church body we have had a warm relationship with the Jewish Council for Racial Equality and have worked with them and the Board of Deputies of British Jews on

racial issues, especially the treatment of asylum-seekers and the need to strengthen the law on racial violence.

Regarding Mr Levin's personal attacks, Dr Leslie Griffiths, the Methodist President, speaks regularly in synagogues and chairs his local Council of Christians and Jews. I have been a member of the Black-Jewish Forum and chaired All Faiths for One Race.

We wonder whether people in Britain realise how many families live in fear, how many black people are being attacked, how many refugees being detained or deported to war zones like Zaire or Angola.

Our hope was that the reference to Jewish experience might alert readers to the seriousness of the situation. Might not a fitting memorial to those who died be to ensure their memory helps in preventing such prejudice and persecution ever developing again?

Yours sincerely,
THEO SAMUEL, Moderator,
Churches Commission for
Racial Justice,
Riverside Church House,
16-41 Lower Marsh, SE1.
September 22.

'A nation of robbers'

From Mr Ramon Newton

Sir, Does the Leicester University crime survey (report, September 21) only cover dishonest behaviour among the lower strata of our society? If, as stated, we are "a nation of robbers, fiddlers and thieves", is it to be wondered? Look at the examples we are set by those in power, both in government and business. Not for them the petty stuff — shoplifting, etc. When they do it, it's millions, sometimes bringing misery into the lives of as many people: for how much did Maxwell rip off his employees?

Things will not change for the better until the right example is set by those whom we should trust. And when they break that trust it needs to be seen that the punishment fits the crime.

Yours faithfully,
R. NEWTON,
16a Church Road, SE19.

Lottery hopes

From Mrs Diana Ellis

Sir, I find it astonishing that Mr Major really seems to believe that the National Lottery must be an unqualified success for everyone (report, September 17). His assertion that it would "unlock the door to a higher quality of life for millions of people" overlooks the many thousands of people on low incomes who will nevertheless "invest" several pounds every week in the belief, usually misguided, that they will be lucky.

Those who can least afford it will be most likely to buy tickets, as their need of a win is greater, and their families will not be rejoicing in Mr Major's "vision" and ideas about national pride.

It is surely no cause for national pride that this one-time Christian nation has to resort to the encouragement of gambling to fund worthwhile projects.

Yours sincerely,
DIANA ELLIS,
11 Raven Drive,
Kettering, Northamptonshire.

Integrated schools and civil liberties

From the Headmaster of the Royal School, Dungannon

Sir, It may well puzzle advocates of integrated education (Walter Ellis's article, September 21) why all schools in Northern Ireland should not become instantly integrated, hence resolving overnight the Province's long-running problems.

However, upon a moment's reflection it may be seen that were this to be the case, the right of parents to have their children schooled according to their wishes or religious preferences would be removed. This right is one which is highly cherished and jealously safeguarded throughout the civilised world. Any attempt to interfere with it would be a gross intrusion upon one of the most treasured of civil liberties. Whether Jewish, Catholic, Free Presbyterian or even atheist, the vast majority of Northern Irish people would be ready to sacrifice much for the continuance of this principle.

This must be as true for Belfast as it is for London, Leeds and Liverpool. The idea should not for one moment be entertained that the school population in Northern Ireland are at each other's throats. Large numbers of non-integrated schools enjoy excellent relationships and have been involved in regular and harmonious joint activities of a highly successful nature for very many years.

The record also shows that juvenile crime in Northern Ireland has one of the lowest rates in Europe — surely a sign that the schools have been doing a magnificent job, despite "the Troubles".

That only a small minority see integrated education as the answer to this socio-political problem should indicate very clearly that there exist many other good reasons for maintaining freedom and diversity of choice in education. It should also indicate that there are many who also are equally unconvinced that an educational system which for long has been the envy of many parts of the UK should be held responsible for society's ailments.

Yours sincerely,
PAUL HEWITT,
Headmaster,
The Royal School,
Northland Row,
Dungannon, Co Tyrone.
September 22.

Mnemonics and PMs

From Mr B. D. Monks

Sir, In your diary under "Misfits" (P.H.S., September 21) you report on Kenneth Baker's BBC documentary, "Walpole's Bottom to Major's Underpants", in which he recalls the cartoon treatment meted out to Henry Addington when he succeeded Pitt.

He says: "Addington was portrayed as a pygmy following a giant — a little man in a big man's clothes".

In a similar vein, I can still recall from my school history studies more than 50 years ago: "Pitt is to Addington as London is to Paddington."

Yours faithfully,
BERNARD MONKS,
1 Ravensmead, Chalfont Common,
Gerrards Cross, Buckinghamshire.
September 23.

Jews in York

From Mr M. H. Cohen

Sir, May I comment on Norman Hammond's article today about the 12th-century Jewish cemetery in York. The word "intolerance" means the denial of the right to differ in opinion or in practice. What the Jews of York were faced with in March 1190 was massacre.

G. M. Trevelyan in his *History of England* wrote: "... the emotion of the third Crusade touched them [the people] just enough to produce some shocking pogroms of Jews."

I remain, yours faithfully,
M. H. COHEN,
5 Vivian Way,
East Finchley, N2.
September 21.

Penny-wise

From Mr Chris Taylor

Sir, In the USA, prices in shops are difficult to calculate because, typically, taxes are only added at the point of sale. This can lead to unexpected small amounts of change being returned, and to purchasers finding themselves a cent or two short of the required total (letters, September 5, 15, 19, 22).

Some stores get around this by having a container next to the till where returned single cents (roughly equal in value — and visually similar — to our abandoned "half pence") can be deposited, and from which extra cents required can be taken.

A trader, then, selling a cup of coffee at \$1.26 including tax and offered \$2, will often give change of 3 quarters (75 cents) and take back a single cent from the pot. If he then sells a doughnut at \$1.24 and is given a dollar bill and a quarter, the cent "change" makes up the shortfall. (A further benefit of this system is the reduced wear and tear on trouser pockets).

Yours sincerely,
R. C. TAYLOR,
The Old Farmhouse,
Church Road,
Bransford, Lincolnshire.
September 22.

OBITUARIES

PRINCE LOUIS FERDINAND OF PRUSSIA

Prince Louis Ferdinand of Prussia, grandson of Kaiser Wilhelm II, died in Bremen on September 25 aged 86. He was born in Potsdam on November 9, 1907.

HAD the German Empire endured, Prince Louis Ferdinand would have been at its head. As it was, the collapse of the Second Reich and the wreck of his grandfather's ambitions in 1918 ensured that the Hohenzollern family was not to add anything of substance to the formidable role it had played in European history from the days of Frederick William, "the Great Elector", in the 17th century.

Prince Louis Ferdinand was compelled to live an altogether less spectacular life than his grandfather had. He was successively student, civil and military pilot and, then, in the postwar period, steward of the remaining family estates, until the unification of East and West Germany in 1990 encouraged him to think of a future in which the Hohenzollerns might play a greater role. Thereafter he became a man to be interviewed and listened to, though his pronouncements in such circumstances were not always wise ones.

A Prussian himself, he was prone to envisage a role for Prussians in the new Germany which appeared to preclude much acknowledgement of the achievements of the Germans of the western *Länder*. In this he seemed to ignore the fact that it was the civilising influence of the Rhineland — statesmen like Konrad Adenauer, writers like Heinrich Böll and cities like Cologne and Bonn — which had created the political and social ethos that enabled Germany to emerge from the moral catastrophe of the Third Reich and look the world in the face again.

Prince Louis Ferdinand was born at the Marmorpalais (Marble Palace) in Potsdam, the second son of Friedrich Wilhelm Viktor August Ernst, Crown Prince of the German Empire and of Prussia. As a small child Louis Ferdinand grew up in the imperial palace atmosphere, studying under an English governess.

When the First World War broke out he was only six and was therefore a spectator of the great events of August and September 1914 during which his father commanded the German Fifth Army in its thrust towards Verdun and the Rhine-Marne canal. Four years later, at the tender age of ten, he was commissioned in the Prussian Imperial Army with the idea that by 18 he would be fit for command.

Long before that could happen the



German Empire had disappeared in the Treaty of Versailles and his grandfather had fled to exile at Doorn in the Netherlands. Under the Weimar Republic most of the Hohenzollern palaces were ceded to the state government of Prussia in 1926 (and most of the remainder of their lands were confiscated by the East German government after the Second World War).

Louis Ferdinand's father was also interned in The Netherlands but in 1923 was given permission by the German Chancellor, Gustav Stresemann, to return to Germany. Louis Ferdinand resumed his education, studying at Berlin University before going to Argentina where he gained experience working in a Ford plant in Buenos Aires. This experience provided the basis for a PhD which he gained at Berlin in 1931.

In the 1930s he went to America where he obtained a pilot's licence. He befriended a number of prominent figures in the political and showbusiness worlds, ranging from President Roosevelt to Charlie Chaplin. He also conducted a widely-publicised affair

with Lili Damita, later the first wife of Errol Flynn.

In 1935 he returned to Germany where he became a pilot for the German national airline, Lufthansa. In 1938 he married Kira, younger daughter of the Grand Duke Kirill Vladimirovich of Russia. In fact these nuptials necessitated three separate ceremonies: a civil marriage and Eastern Orthodox religious ceremony at Potsdam on May 2 and a further celebration, this time of the Evangelical marriage rites, before his grandfather at Doorn on May 4.

Like most Lufthansa pilots Louis Ferdinand was drafted into the Luftwaffe when war broke out in 1939. He flew as a commissioned pilot but the Nazis found that he had little enthusiasm for their cause and in 1941 he was allowed to retire to a family estate in East Prussia. There the Nazis kept a close eye on him and after the attempt on Hitler's life in 1944 he fell under suspicion and was interviewed by the Gestapo. The story goes that he lied his interrogators with fine wines from the estate's cellars and rendered them so drunk that he was able to write

and sign his report himself. In any event he survived the war unscathed. After the war he shared — though not too harshly — some of his countrymen's travails, but in the rebuilding of the new Federal Republic was able to take possession of some of the family's estates. These included Burg Hohenzollern, a 19th-century pastiche medieval castle in the gentle hill country of Swabia, and houses in Berlin and Bremen.

His elder brother Wilhelm had been killed during the invasion of France in 1940, so when his father died in 1951 Louis Ferdinand became head of the house of Hohenzollern. For decades this involved little more than showing guests round his castle and plying them with the ultra-dry *finis* sherry for which he was renowned. But the events of November 9, 1989 — the fall of the Berlin Wall on his 82nd birthday — quickened Hohenzollern expectations.

"We celebrated until four o'clock in the morning with a lot of alcohol," he later recorded. Unification of the two Germanies in the following year appeared to suggest a meaningful role for the Prussian royal family. Louis Ferdinand liked to think, somewhat romantically, that the new, unified state had an enhanced consciousness of the Hohenzollern past. He was a firm supporter of a return to Berlin as the capital and was a great proponent for the sterling qualities of East Germans.

There was something slightly quixotic about his attitudes since he tended to regard most of the inhabitants of the eastern *Länder* as Prussians. Thus the Saxon-born Foreign Minister, Hans-Dietrich Genscher, was described approvingly as "a Prussian born in the province of Saxony" (a description which overlooked the Saxons' traditional dislike of Prussian militarism). Even Chancellor Kohl, a native of the Rhineland Palatinate, was in danger of becoming an honorary Prussian, since Louis Ferdinand thought of him as being "a second Bismarck — no better than Bismarck".

Yet Louis Ferdinand was no militarist and certainly not a racist, glorying in the proportion of Slav blood which flows in eastern German veins. "Mixed marriages are the best anti-war pill," he would say. "... we should become a melting pot like America." Politically he was a European, albeit envisaging a Europe with Germany at its heart. "It will be *Deutschland und Europa*. Borders will be superfluous," was his final word on the subject.

His wife died in 1967. There were four sons, of whom the eldest, Louis Ferdinand Friedrich Wilhelm Hubertus Michael Kirill, becomes head of the house of Hohenzollern.

SIR STANLEY TOMLINSON

Sir Stanley (Tommy) Tomlinson, KCMG, former British High Commissioner in Colombo, died on September 10 aged 82. He was born on March 21, 1912.



TOMMY TOMLINSON was one of Britain's psychological warriors in the Second World War, broadcasting propaganda to the Far East from a radio station based in San Francisco. Few could have been better qualified for the task. Not only did he speak fluent Japanese but he had just been repatriated to this country after ten months' house arrest in French Indo-China.

A junior member of the consulate in Tokyo when the war started, he had been switched by Whitehall to Saigon — only for the invading enemy to catch up with him, as the French, helpless in the aftermath of their defeat at the hands of the Germans, were compelled to acquiesce in the Japanese "protective" occupation of French Indo-China. A French diplomat trying to organise foreign nationals apprehended Tommy Tomlinson in the bath.

After being released from detention, he was on his way back to this country via Mozambique when he bumped into an old Japanese friend and contact who was making the same journey in the reverse direction. They shook hands stiffly and reluctantly on the quayside before Tomlinson went on to London, then San Francisco.

It was all a far cry from West Yorkshire where he had been born. His father was a policeman, then stationed in Batley. But the family moved shortly afterwards to Holmfirth — now famous as the setting for *Last of the Summer Wine*.

Then, when Tomlinson senior retired, they went to Nottingham, so that he could fulfil his life's ambition, of spending his days watching cricket at Trent Bridge. Young Tommy went to High Pavement School — where he got his grounding in languages.

The Nottingham lace industry had a burgeoning export trade, especially with parts of

South America. The need for Spanish-speaking clerks was so intense that he began learning the language at 11.

He took an economics degree at Nottingham, but was too young to try Whitehall and the consular service. Forced to fill in time for two years, he lectured for the Workers' Educational Association on mechanical engineering, a subject of which he knew little. He would read his textbook on the train going to the lecture, then regurgitate it all before his class, hoping that no one would ask him searching questions.

Having joined the consular service in 1935, Tomlinson was in Washington when the war ended. He was posted next to Manila, where he reopened the British consulate. He had to expel two American women from their hotel room because he needed it for his office.

He ran the South-East Asia desk at the Foreign Office, 1955-58, before going to Berlin for three years as deputy commander in the British sector. There followed a posting to Paris in the British permanent delegation to Nato before he went to New York in 1964 as Consul-General. When the departing British Ambassador Lord Harlech left for home, the Tomlinsons were among the four people to see him and his wife off, the others being Jacqueline Kennedy and her brother-in-law Robert.

From 1966 until 1969 Tomlinson was High Commissioner in Ceylon where he made a great impression by taking the trouble to add Sinhalese to his French, Ger-

man, Spanish and Japanese. Then, after three final years as a deputy under-secretary in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, he retired from the Diplomatic Service in 1972. Tomlinson spent the first part of his retirement rewriting the FCO's *Handbook on Diplomatic Practice*. Although it had already been once updated, it still sounded quaintly arcane. Ambassadors not accorded their proper precedence at the dinner table, for example, were advised to rise, bow stiffly to their hostess and depart; or alternatively turn their dinner plate upside down — as a signal to their host of their displeasure. All this was discreetly spiked by the reforming Tomlinson.

He also served as chairman of Civil Service selection boards and immigration appeals tribunals, while helping the Japanese Embassy to choose people to teach English in Tokyo. In 1970 Nottingham University conferred on him an honorary doctorate of law.

In his spare time Tomlinson read poetry and fiction and fished for trout in the Kennet — having taking instruction in fly fishing at a pond on Hampstead Heath before going to the Foreign Office.

But his most absorbing passion was for fine wines. A connoisseur, he built up one of the best cellars in southern England — although not all his purchases delighted him. One disappointment led to an altercation with Auberon Waugh in *The Spectator*. Although no apology was forthcoming, it earned him a mention in Waugh's next wine column. The "retired diplomat from Wiltshire", Waugh wrote, had clearly erred in opening the bottles far too soon.

A good-looking man, robust in build and manner, Tomlinson was debilitated by Parkinson's disease during the last ten years, which forced him to give up fly fishing and his golf. He gave away his tackle to local boys' clubs.

Tommy Tomlinson was married twice and is survived by his second wife Nancy, whom he met while she was acting first secretary in the Australian High Commission in London.

TEDDY MILLINGTON-DRAKE

Teddy Millington-Drake, artist, died from pneumonia in Patmos on September 5 aged 62. He was born in London on July 5, 1932.

A PAINTER, non-vivax and traveller, Teddy Millington-Drake was a man of enormous charm and impeccable style. Although he saw himself primarily as a painter, he will also be remembered for the series of beautiful houses and gardens that he created and for his powerful influence on other makers of taste, in particular his close friend, the designer John Stefanidis and

Min Hogg, the founding editor of *Interiors* magazine. Those who visited his houses in Italy and Greece were impressed by their seemingly effortless perfection and his instinctive sense of what was right. With his deadpan, nonchalant manner, it was easy to dismiss him as a dilettante, but even when he had a houseful of guests he would retire for many hours to his studio to work, and he never travelled without his sketchbook.

Edgar Louis Vanderstegen Millington-Drake was the son of Sir Eugen Millington-Drake, a notoriously eccentric

diplomat; his mother, Lady Effie, an *Incognita* heiress, shared her husband's disposition and in later life would hold conversations with the donkeys on Patmos. From an early age Millington-Drake had, as he confided in his unpublished memoirs, "an obsession with people's clothes and appearances".

First to be taken in hand was his mother whose appearance on visits to Eton embarrassed him. Determined to correct her sartorial solecisms, he accompanied her to Paris where they would order dresses from Worth and hats from her milliner in the Rue Royale.

Because of postwar currency restrictions, this generally entailed smuggling pound notes in coat pockets or paying Worth's representative in London in cash.

After a promising academic career at Eton, Millington-Drake joined the Rifle Brigade for National Service. The men were amused by his insistence on wearing pyjamas and spraying the barrack-room with eau de cologne; he in turn was astonished his first night to count the "F..." word a hundred times in the course of one minute. Because of his knowledge of languages, he was offered a commission in

Intelligence and served during the Suez crisis in Egypt where he struck up friendships with the journalists James Morris and James Mossman.

Millington-Drake went up to Magdalen College, Oxford, to read PPE, a subject in which he had little interest, but failed his Prelims having stayed up the entire previous night attending a Commem ball and then switched to history. His undoing academically was the fast set he joined, led by Desmond Guinness with whom he wrote a scurrilous gossip column in the Oxford *Conservative* magazine. In his fourth term he decided to leave Oxford in order to devote himself to art and travel.

He made his debut as an artist with an exhibition in Oxford of watercolours of Venice and was encouraged in his enthusiasm for the East by Tom Boase, President of Magdalen, who lent him books on Iranian art and architecture. In 1953 a financial crisis propelled the family into tax exile in Tripoli and encouraged Millington-Drake's already nomadic tendencies. After a spell travelling in the Middle East, where he was captivated by the city of Istanbul, he moved to Paris studying at the Académie Julien and exhibiting watercolours of Iran and interiors of Daisy Fellowes's house in Paris at the Galerie André Weil.

From there he gravitated to a rented house in the Veneto belonging to the Albrizzi family whose walls, much to its owners' displeasure, he covered in murals. The episode was immortalised in



Emma Tennant's novel, *The Colour Rain*. He struck up friendships with Freya Stark in nearby Asolo and joined a circle of wealthy socialites including Peggy Guggenheim and Barbara Hutton in Venice, where he gave a memorable party for the jazz singer Lena Horne.

In 1963 Millington-Drake bought two 17th-century houses on the island of Patmos beneath the great monastery, which he set about transforming with his customary perfectionism. In his otherwise restless and nomadic life Pat-

mos was the one still point, a place where during the summer months he would entertain an ever-revolving house party with lavish generosity and attention to detail; a centre for his studio and his art collection. This included works by Edward Burra, Malcolm Morley and, above all, Cy Twombly whom he was among the earliest to admire.

Millington-Drake's own abstract expressionist works of the 1960s and early 1970s, which he exhibited at the Hanover Gallery in London

and Byron Gallery in New York, are not much admired in this country, but from these bold experiments his later topographical watercolours drew much of their power — "tinted drawings" which take on a life of their own while giving an uncanny sense of the *genius loci*. In all he produced several thousand drawings of India and the Middle East. It was an impressive output for a man who posed as a languid aesthete.

Teddy Millington-Drake is survived by his eight nephews and nieces.

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SATURDAY 5TH - SUNDAY 6TH NOVEMBER

SATURDAY 12TH - SUNDAY 13TH NOVEMBER

SATURDAY 19TH - SUNDAY 20TH NOVEMBER

SATURDAY 26TH - SUNDAY 27TH NOVEMBER

SATURDAY 3RD - SUNDAY 4TH DECEMBER

Drift From Devon's Dying Hamlets

From Our Special Correspondent

"I ain't having that 'tis a declining village. I ain't having that." She stood foursquare in the farmyard, a West Country Boadicea stubbornly refusing to accept that the fortunes of the parish were waning. But it was plain to nearly everybody else in the isolated hamlets of mid-Devon that they are gradually losing their populations, vitality and character. Their huddles of mouse-grey stone and thatch, thrown like cloaks over the green hillsides, are sleepy in the sun. Sleeping? Devon county authorities face the probability that they are dying. There are scores of them with marvelous names like Sampford Courtenay, Woolfardisworthy, Stockleigh English and Cheriton Fitzpaine. Zeal Monachorum is a majestic score in itself. Yet with their charm goes a pervasive melancholy, a twentieth-century dejection which is easier to detect than define. Television aerials sprout

ON THIS DAY

September 28 1963

In one of the villages named, Cheriton Fitzpaine, the population of one thousand was reckoned to have been halved. "Within six years bread came by van from Exeter, two bakers and butchers having closed down."

from the thatch but the school is closed or the public house or both: the bus and the person come once a week. Cottages which were once bursting at the seams with families now house an elderly retired couple or have become somebody's weekend or holiday retreat. They seem to be villages without headmen and the heart has gone out of them. The need for self-sufficiency which brought them into being no longer exists. Scores

of them lie only a few miles from good roads but the deep connecting lanes are like zig-zag trenches. A woman said simply: "If we see strangers here then we know they're lost." Farming is practically the only industry and is generally prosperous but it does not need as many hands either in the farmhouse or on the land. In the past 10 years more than 100 village schools have been closed and in the next few years 20 or 30 more may fall silent. In the past 10 years 31 factories have been "attracted" and more are coming but the road system is not exactly inviting and the proposed closure of railways will not help. Roads are the key to Devon's future and the point was clearly made in the memorandum which recently reached Mr Maudling, Chancellor of the Exchequer, from the Joint Committee for the Economy of the South-West. A deputation from the joint committee of the county councils of Cornwall, Devon, Dorset, Somerset and the city councils of Exeter and Plymouth are to see the Chancellor next month...

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Despite the hype surrounding the O.J. Simpson case, there is much to be said for dragging British justice into the TV age

Put the camera in our courtrooms

The worst part of the O.J. Simpson trial will be the orgy of smugness in this country. The righteous chorus has already begun: "Thank God, we are not as those others."

I'll not be joining it. I see something entirely different in the television pictures from Los Angeles: a society so open that it prefers to expose its worst faults — litigiousness, greed, celebrity worship, racism, psychobabble — before the whole world rather than to close the doors on a public process.

Yes, the massive pre-trial publicity has been stomach-turning. Yet it is by no means clear that it has prejudiced the case against the beautiful catatonic O.J. Prejudice may in the end prevent his getting a fair trial but it will have been formed by deep racial feelings; the press will have had nothing to do with it.

Bridging these undeniable racial divisions, however, is a fairly widespread American faith in the common sense of a jury — that its

members, once fortuitously selected, will have the ability to give more weight to evidence produced in court than something they saw a year ago on the cover of Time magazine.

Pre-trial publicity, in any event, is not all bad. It amounts to something more than televised debates, T-shirts and instant books. The Simpson saga has forced Americans to argue passionately among themselves about the kind of thing that citizens should argue about: are the accused really presumed innocent until proven guilty? What is the point of the death penalty? If the district attorney, in this case of an alleged premeditated double murder, will not seek it, what is the point of having it?

Besides, the constitutional commitment to a free press does not prevent an American judge from

restricting television coverage in the interests of a fair trial. Judge Lance Ito has already used this power in banning the cameras from the jury-selection process; he could do the same for the trial itself. But the Supreme Court has ruled that when the two ideals conflict, barring clear evidence to the contrary, the judge must always come down on the side of openness.

This I suspect that cameras will be at the trial. Live coverage of its slow length will counteract what has gone before. Witnesses who have sold their story to the tabloid press will be cross-examined about how and why they sought profit from the tragedy. Detectives accused of planting false evidence will explain themselves before all our eyes.

Most, possibly all, in Britain prefer to see justice more decorously



BRENDA MADDOX

ly pursued — behind closed doors, the scene recorded by artist's impressions and presided over by a judge who retires for the night to a private £10,000-a-week Tudor mansion with a butler to spare him contact with the public.

The case for such decorum would be stronger if it were conspicuously successful in preventing miscarriages of justice. But the reverse is true, as the

procession of jubilant released prisoners emerging from the Law Courts with overturned verdicts proves. At least with the case of O.J. Simpson, we're getting the true story live, in real time, rather than having to wait for it to be recreated by Daniel Day-Lewis in blackface a dozen years hence.

I get the impression that English courts are like the sewers — necessary, but no one really wants to look. If only one-hundredth of the space devoted to depicting the O.J. circus in Los Angeles could have been given instead to protesting against the ban on cameras at the Scott inquiry, we would know more about how our own society worked during a moment of crisis.

The trial of O.J. Simpson is one such moment for Americans. It is as if all of American history, literature and technology since 1776 had been heading toward this

one drama: the replaying, live by satellite, of the American tragedy, the American dream of a better, brighter life overwhelmed once again by the inescapable dark side of human nature.

But Americans are willing to look. Cameras are in many other courtrooms as well, and these are not all full of O.J.s, von Bulows and Kennedys. Every night on local television news programmes, the public can see how the police haul in their catch and present it before the bench. And if the young handcuffed men have become bruised and bleeding in the hands of the law, the camera is there to show it.

For my part, I recall much more from all the crime reconstructions on British television. I loathe the pandering to the obsessive fascination with crime, the solemn pleas

to the audience to help the police to find the guilty men. To like this form of entertainment and then to condemn the televising of an actual murder trial is like preferring pornography to sex.

And I find almost comic the contortions the broadcasters then have to go through to protect the public's sensibilities. Only this month the BBC has ratified new guidelines on reporting crime: no music (it wasn't there on the day), no shots of blood, no shots of wounds being inflicted, no artificial dialogue. Reconstructed crime must look real, but not too real.

Isn't it time to start accepting television as part of real life? Cocooned inside our domestic fortresses, moving from the PC to the TV to the microwave, we need all the reality we can get. If television is allowed to watch law-making, why cannot it watch justice-making? Open courts were once seen as a way of guaranteeing a fair trial. There is no reason why television should not enhance that guarantee.

Why is Oprah Winfrey changing channels?

The world's best-paid woman is on the move — thanks to a new deal between the BBC and Sky TV. Patrick Stoddart examines the bidding, the wrangling and the wringing of hands behind the scenes

Television series — once the sole property of the network that first screened them — have recently developed a habit of switching channels faster than a viewer zapping through the commercials.

University Challenge and What The Papers Say are both former ITV favourites that now reside happily on BBC2, and Men Behaving Badly, the Martin Clunes situation comedy, enjoyed two mediocre years on ITV before jumping channel to BBC1.

The most recent and controversial description has yet to happen, however, and it concerns the world's best paid woman, Oprah Winfrey. The Oprah show, which has earned the former actress \$69 million since its launch in the United States, has been a jewel in Channel 4's afternoon turban for some years. Now showing under the name Oprah Gold, it has earned the channel headlines, a loyal audience and many media page column inches devoted to the learned study of television talk shows.

No longer. Channel 4 was outbid for the new Oprah contract by Sky Television, which paid a rumoured £1.5 million for the right to show future Oprah series five nights a week on Sky One. But what most really sting Channel 4 is that Sky has sold on the rights to repeats to BBC2. According to Michael Jackson, BBC2's controller, who announced the deal yesterday, the Oprah snatch is "the best bargain for terrestrial television in years."

He says that when he gets his hands on Oprah Winfrey in January, he will run the shows twice a week, a little later in the day than Channel 4 has traditionally screened them, as part of a new talk-based afternoon programme pattern.

The fact is, though, that Jackson got a chance to bid for the series only because Channel 4 turned down Sky's offer to let it keep two repeats per week.

As a spokeswoman put it: "To coin a phrase, the Sky is not the limit. We did bid for the new series, because Oprah has been very good for us and we were quite keen to keep it. On the other hand, the US ratings

are slipping fast and there is only so much we are prepared to pay for a series that is becoming less popular than it once was.

"Oprah only worked so well for us because we were very selective about the shows and we put them through a rigid editing process. If Sky plan to run the shows uncensored, at their original length, five days a week. Good luck to them."

But that doesn't entirely explain why Channel 4 turned down the chance to run Oprah in edited form, as it does now. A basic truth emerges. "Whatever the BBC thinks its role is, Channel 4 doesn't feel it's job to feed off the leftovers from Sky's table," said the man from Channel 4.

Sky's director of programmes, David Elstein, is sanguine. He said recently: "We have no doubt that Oprah will work very well for us, and if Channel 4 wants to cut its nose off to spite its face, that's its business."

The BBC is equally dignified. Its spokesman insisted: "We were very careful to let Channel 4 have first refusal before we spoke to Sky. Channel 4 have done a good job breaking Oprah Winfrey in, and it's only right that they should have kept it if they wanted to."

As for our deal, this is simply another example of the BBC ensuring that terrestrial viewers will not be denied the chance to see programmes they enjoy. People forget that Sky can reach only one tenth of the available audience and there is no logic in the BBC refusing a series which most of its viewers can't see any other way."

The BBC is also keen to discount the rumour that by the new year, there will be little on BBC2 screens except women talking. This is an understandable suspicion, given that Esther Rantzen starts her own English Oprah later this year (a series commissioned before the Winfrey deal was on the table); that Germaine Greer is to host six late-night talk shows; and that Janet Street-Porter is talking to Michael Jackson about piloting what he described as "a Parkinson sort of thing."

But as the BBC spokesman



Winfrey: moving to both Sky and the BBC — but Channel 4 say ratings in America are falling

insists: "They won't all be at the same time, you know. Anyway, this is part of the democratisation of BBC2. Michael is very keen to get as many different voices and opinions on the screen as he can, including American voices. Any-

way, the only resemblance between Esther and Oprah is that they are both women."

Meanwhile, back at Channel 4, plans are afoot to replace the hours vacated by the departing Oprah in January. In her place will go... an

American chat show with a woman host. "We will be trying out the Ricki Lake Show," says their spokesperson.

"She's white and much younger than Oprah, so it's a very different thing altogether."

The big sounds are silent

Will grown-up pop get its own radio station? Alexandra Frean reports

Turn the dial on any radio in London and you will find stations on the FM waveband playing reggae, soul, the blues, dance and easy-listening music and singles chart hits. You might even find some traditional Greek music transmitted, like the others, in stereo. But where will you find the biggest-selling album artists of the international music industry?

It is a curious reflection on the state of British commercial radio that rock musicians such as Bryan Adams, Phil Collins, REM, Sting, Eric Clapton and Michael Bolton, who all featured in Music Week's top 20 album chart for 1993, have no natural home on the radio spectrum in London.

If you are patient you might possibly catch adult-orientated rock artists such as Tina Turner on Capital Gold, but you will probably have to sit through a Neil Sedaka song first and you will have to listen on the AM waveband in mono. You may well be able to hear Simply Red on Capital FM, but only after you have endured Euro-pop hits such as Whigfield's Saturday Night and Soap's Welcome to Tomorrow. You can avoid teeny-bop music by tuning in to Richard Branson's Virgin 1215 rock music station on AM, but again this is in mono and reception is less than perfect.

According to Adam White, international editor-in-chief of the music industry bible Billboard magazine, AC (adult contemporary) is the most-listened-to format in the United States, where it accounts for nearly 16 per cent of the listening of people aged 12 and over. Its arrival in the UK is the next most obvious development for the radio industry, he believes.

"There is a huge hole in London for an adult contemporary station. I believe that if one were launched it would take off," Mr White says.

The Radio Authority will have an opportunity to license an AC station next month when it awards two new FM and two new AM licences for London and decides whether to re-award Capital Radio its existing FM and AM licences. Of the 41 applications for the six licences, 13 are offering AC formats on FM, with playlists promising a mellow, melodic mix of artists such as REM, Simply Red, Joe Cocker, Paul Simon and those already mentioned.

It is unthinkable that Capital, Britain's most popular and powerful commercial radio company, will lose either of its two London licences. Nevertheless, the company has sounded a warning that should the Radio Authority license

an AC music service in London, the newcomer would inevitably eat into Capital's existing audiences and advertising revenues and as a result undermine the entire commercial radio sector. (There are also dark mutterings — threats? — from Capital's Euston Tower headquarters in central London that the launch of an AC station in London would increase competition so much that it would be forced to spend less money on its laudable community projects.)

If investors have at last begun to appreciate the enormous cash-generative powers of radio, it is in no small measure down to the efforts of Richard Eyre, Capital's chief executive. Thanks partly to his idea of marketing packages of airtime across a number of stations in a region through a single transaction, advertising revenues grew by 26 per cent in 1993, taking the sector's share of the "display" advertising cake up to 3.4 per cent.

Early indications show that the underlying growth in advertising income may be even higher in 1994 and that the rapid rate of audience growth in 1993 is holding up, too. Local stations, which now reach 22.8 million adults, have seen their share of weekly listening hours grow by more than 30 per cent for each of the last six quarters.

According to Mark Bielby, media analyst at S.G. Warburg, Capital is so dominant a figure in the sector that jeopardising its future would be bound to affect confidence in the rest of the sector. "Capital has created a very stable environment in the sector and launching an AC station would inject uncertainty," he says.

More worrying to others in the industry are the effects that licensing an AC format service will have on the small players in London, such as Melody Radio, the easy-listening station, or Kiss FM, which plays dance music.

Richard Huntingford, of the entertainment group Chrysalis, one of the 12 applicants for a London licence for an AC station, believes that far from cannibalising Capital's income, an AC station would help to attract new advertisers to radio. He points out that Capital's two stations have a 27 per cent share of weekly adult listening in London, compared with only 3.8 per cent of their nearest rival, Kiss FM.

In Birmingham, where Chrysalis launched Britain's first AC station on September 6, early evidence suggests that 45 per cent of advertising revenue is "new to radio". Mr Huntingford says.



Paul Simon: no natural home

Good mornings and big breakfasts

15 MINUTE SEGMENTS (6.00-9.30am)					
September 5 to September 9, 1994					
Programme	Date	15 mins beginning	Chan	Producer	Aud (th)
1 GMTV	Tue	08.15	ITV	Good Morning Television	1.9
2 GMTV	Wed	08.15	ITV	Good Morning Television	1.8
3 GMTV	Thu	08.15	ITV	Good Morning Television	1.8
4 The Big Breakfast	Fri	08.15	ITV	Good Morning Television	1.8
5 GMTV	Tue	08.00	ITV	Good Morning Television	1.7
6 GMTV	Wed	08.00	ITV	Good Morning Television	1.7
7 GMTV	Thu	08.00	ITV	Good Morning Television	1.7
8 The Big Breakfast	Fri	08.00	BBC1	Horne-Barbara	1.7
9 The Flintstones	Tue	08.00	C4	Planet 24	1.7
10 The Big Breakfast	Wed	08.15	ITV	Good Morning Television	1.7
11 GMTV	Thu	08.00	ITV	Good Morning Television	1.7
12 GMTV	Fri	08.00	C4	Good Morning Television	1.8
13 GMTV	Tue	07.45	ITV	Good Morning Television	1.8
14 GMTV	Wed	07.45	ITV	Good Morning Television	1.8
15 GMTV	Thu	07.45	ITV	Good Morning Television	1.8
16 GMTV	Fri	07.45	C4	Good Morning Television	1.8
17 GMTV	Tue	08.30	ITV	Good Morning Television	1.8
18 The Big Breakfast	Wed	08.30	ITV	Good Morning Television	1.8
19 GMTV	Thu	08.00	C4	Planet 24	1.8
20 The Big Breakfast	Fri	08.00	C4	Planet 24	1.8

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While media attention has focused in recent months on the fortunes of GMTV, the ITV breakfast broadcaster, BBC1's early-morning offering, Breakfast News, appears to be slipping quietly off the edge of the ratings map.

Breakfast News does not appear once in our top 20 chart, which this week examines viewing in quarter-hour segments between 6am and 9.30am. It must be galling for Nicholas Witchell and his fellow BBC1 breakfast presenters to know that the only time their channel does enter our chart, it is no thanks to them but rather to an old Flintstones cartoon, played at 9.15am.

Even that achievement seems to be something of an anomaly, since peak breakfast-time viewing most frequently occurs between 8am and 8.15am.

The BBC will no doubt argue that its job is not to chase ratings,

GMTV dominates the cornflakes charts — but Channel 4 is fighting back

but to provide diversity and indeed, breakfast time is one of the few areas in British television where there is a consistent and genuine choice for viewers.

Our chart covers September 5 to 9, when term started at most state schools. GMTV, which dominates the sector, ran a series of five daily reports during the week called Kids in Crisis. Presented by the station's right-on "resident" Baptist minister, Steve Chalke, and targeted at teenagers, the series covered issues such as teenage pregnancies, drugs

and homelessness and went out between 7 and 7.30am to catch the pupils before they went to school.

Claims (from none other than GMTV) this summer that The Big Breakfast bubble had finally burst seem somewhat premature. The Channel 4 programme takes six places in the chart, which is a marked improvement on its performance over the summer and considerably more than is usually achieved by any of the channel's other output.

Suggestions that The Big Breakfast cannot survive without its star presenter, Chris Evans, also need questioning. Even without Evans (he did not present a single show during the week under review), The Big Breakfast is still regularly achieving peak audiences in excess of 1.6 million.

ALEXANDRA FREAN



Success story: Anthea Turner, one of GMTV's presenters

GOING ON-LINE

THE TIMES on-line service is provided by Delphi, the world's largest provider of consumer access to the Internet and owned by an associate company of The Times. To get on-line you will need any computer that can be linked to a modem, the modem and the software that allows you to use the modem.

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NEWS

Railtrack and union reach deal

Leaders of the RMT rail union and Railtrack reached a deal to settle the four-month signalworkers' strikes. After more than 60 hours of talks over seven days with Acas, they agreed a package to end the longest major strike in Britain of the 1990s. All the elements of the deal on pay, restructuring and productivity were believed to have been agreed during the past few days. Yesterday's talks agreed how details would feed through into earnings. Page 1

Airports plague alert

Health officials were considering Britain's response to the threat of pneumonic plague being carried into the country by visitors from India as other European countries announced precautions at airports. India confirmed outbreaks in Delhi, Bombay and as far east as Calcutta. Pages 1, 11

Labour tax pledge

Tony Blair and Gordon Brown staked out the ground on which Labour will fight the next election by trying to reassure the middle classes that it has abandoned its tax and spending instincts. Pages 1, 9

Doctor questioned

Dr Clive Froggatt, an architect of the Government's health reforms, was being questioned by police last night over deception allegations. Page 1

Violent crime up

A political row erupted as crime figures showed the largest drop since 1984, by 5.5 per cent overall but violent and sexual offences rose sharply. Page 1

Mother strangled

A girl of 14 and her 11-year-old brother arrived home from school to find their mother strangled on the bathroom floor. The children and their father have since been under sedation. Page 3

Cheaper justice

Radical proposals for cutting the costs of civil justice, in which judges would work in teams on cases rather than by themselves, were outlined by Lord Woolf. Page 5

Mental health risk

Patients and public are being put at risk by the crisis in mental health services in London, warns an official body. Page 4

Muscular men back in the swim

A 23-year-old Californian broke the record for swimming the English Channel, restoring the dominance of the male sex in one of the world's most famous endurance feats. Chad Hunderby took seven hours 17 minutes for the crossing from England to France, 23 minutes faster than the previous best set by an American woman. Page 1

Sunny summit

President Clinton and President Yeltsin began a two-day summit in Washington by proclaiming a new harmony in relationships that would benefit the entire world. Page 12

Iraqi dissent

The Iraqi Army has been placed on maximum alert to cope with signs of increasing dissent against deprivation caused by UN sanctions. Page 13

Teenage killer

A drug-addicted teenager who brutally attacked the elderly and murdered a spinster aged 88 was ordered to be detained indefinitely and given eight life sentences. Page 7

City fights cars

Edinburgh, which has the fastest growth of car ownership in Europe, unveiled a £100 million project to cut car traffic by a third in 15 years. Page 7

Young hopefuls

Young adults are more optimistic than their elders or their counterparts of a generation ago but dislike rigid moral codes and family values, according to market research. Page 8

... and old hopefuls

A new keyhole technique for cosmetic surgery, introduced from America, smooths away jowls and wrinkles almost invisibly. Page 6



A roadside vendor selling face masks in Ahmedabad, 125 miles north of Surat, the Indian town stricken by pneumonic plague. Ten plague patients are being treated in Ahmedabad, capital of the western state of Gujarat. Reports, pages 1, 11

BUSINESS

CBi pledge: The Confederation of British Industry has backed after a Jockey Club disciplinary inquiry into an altercation with a fellow jockey. Page 44

ICI share sale: ICI and Italy's Enichem are to float their European Vinyls Corp joint venture, raising up to £250m. Page 23

Tarmac move: The weak housing recovery in Britain has forced Tarmac to change its market strategy. Page 25

Markets: The FT-SE 100 index of leading shares closed 8.7 higher at 3,008.5, gaining strength from a solid opening on Wall Street. The pound rose 33 cents to \$1.5773 but fell 81 pence to DM2.4398, with the German mark strengthening ahead of tomorrow's Bundesbank council meeting. Page 26

Horse racing: Kieran Fallon was banned from racing for six months after a Jockey Club disciplinary inquiry into an altercation with a fellow jockey. Page 44

Rugby league: Barrie McDermott, the Wigan prop forward blinded in one eye after an air-rifle accident, was called up for the Great Britain squad in training to play Australia. Page 44

Boxing: Chris Eubank, much criticised for the calibre of his recent opponents, has agreed to face Henry Wharton. Page 40

Rugby union: SuperCoach, a computer game designed to help to teach rugby to 11- to 13-year-olds, is being distributed free to nearly 3,000 schools. Page 42

Glittering get-up: If any further demonstration is needed that glamour is back, the British Fashion Awards 1994 will provide the proof. Page 14

A great heavy: At 58, Dennis Hopper has an assured status as Hollywood's No. 1 "nutter". Julia Llewellyn Smith on the dream interview: courteous, funny and unlikely to go berserk with a pickaxe. Page 15

Optimistic generation: "The young have always been a mystery to the middle-aged. Their views are either ignored or simply assumed to be the same as those of their elders." Mary Ann Sieghart reports. Page 15

Art lover extraordinaire: Tomorrow Sister Wendy Beckett publishes her sixth book with the ambitious title, *The Story of Painting*. And now there is to be a major television series. Ros Drinkwater meets the irrepressible 64-year-old Carmelite nun. Page 31

Stepping into the breach: To lose your tenor is a misfortune but to be without your soprano as well can mean a change of opera. That is what happened at the Coliseum the other night and it gave the understudies a chance to shine. Page 31

Foot in two cultures: Nobuko Albery, aka Lady Albery, is radically changing the face of theatre in Japan with her productions of the Western mega-musicals. Now she is trying to change the Japanese themselves. Page 32

Fresh start: As the Design Council closes its London showplace in the Haymarket and embarks on yet another facelift, Joe Joseph wonders what has gone wrong in the world of British industrial design. Page 33

TV trials: "The worst part of the O.J. Simpson trial will be the orgy of smugness in this country. The righteous chorus has already begun." Brenda Maddox on the television pictures from Los Angeles. Page 21

Ian Botham's colourful career on and off the field in *Botham* (BBC1, 10.55pm; Scotland tomorrow, 11.45pm). Page 43

Economical belief

Labour's best hope is to neutralise the economy as a political issue. It must persuade the public that it has at least caught up with the Tory centre in its acceptance of markets and free enterprise, and that it is no more incompetent than the Tories at managing a capitalist economy. Page 17

Closed campus

There must be new mechanisms of accountability to maintain the confidence of the public in the universities which it subsidises. Page 17

The plague

The epidemic is a consequence of the conditions in which affected Indians are forced to live, conditions provoked by misgovernment at every level. Page 18

SIMON JENKINS

Nothing in even the sordid history of crime statistics equals yesterday's farrago. Page 16

MARK SEDDON

Part of Labour's attraction is its commitment to spend more. The Tories set about shifting power and wealth to a minority. Labour's mission is to shift it back to the majority. Page 16

PETER RIDDELL

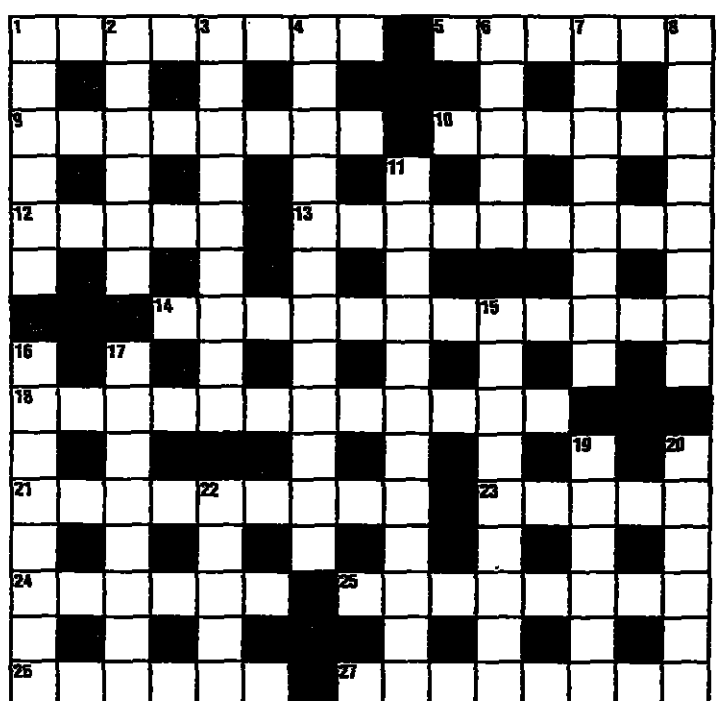
While [Labour] presented a strategy for improving long-term economic performance, they did not say how they would manage the short-term. Page 9

Prince Louis Ferdinand of Prussia, grandson of Kaiser Wilhelm II, Sir Stanley Tomlinson, former British High Commissioner in Colombo. Page 19

Home comforts in judges' lodgings. Page 5

For President Clinton to meet Mr Adams would be completely inappropriate; we have no business interfering with the domestic politics of Britain. *The Washington Times*

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 19,659



- ACROSS**
- Mark cutting his risk, perhaps, in a brief engagement (8).
 - Means of transport for 1 ac leaders - 5p once (3-3).
 - They transmit signals in cricket, for example (8).
 - Drawing rejected in Miller's apartment (6).
 - Painter is champion (5).
 - Yobs scattering oil in log huts... (9).
 - ... can rely, perhaps, on £1,000 from this crime (5,7).
 - Fellow going in by entrance, carrying sodium and salt (12).
 - Go round and bring about... (9).
 - Time to bring in new tin for a cake (6).
 - Surgeon exactly in centre of naval vessel (8).
- DOWN**
- Obsequious warrant-officer with land forces (6).
 - Mean press employee abandons fiancée (6).
 - Part of China with a rum composition (9).
 - A lucky break, maybe, for the criminal classes (5-3-4).
 - Dust-coloured security device for vehicles, say? (5).
 - Retired eastern carrier is sold down the river (8).
 - Speculator's flair for recognising gold (5-3).
 - Very rich broth in dining-cars, for instance (7-5).
 - Computer filing operation required at the shoot (9).
 - Part of book left behind by a theatre-goer? (8).
 - Small part of dramatised documentary about railway (8).
 - Newspaper game for the common people (6).
 - Adequate notes on otorhinolaryngology (6).
 - Subdued as some players are at times (5).

Solution to Puzzle No 19,658

ACCESS COLOSSUS
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STEALTH EYEWASH
T A B I G R E
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S I O U E O S
K I N G P I N N O N S U I T
E D E P D I O A
W H I S T O P E N C O U R T
E N A S R A E O
R E G U L A T E F L U I D

Times Two Crossword, page 44

THE TIMES WEATHER

For the latest region by region forecast, 24 hours a day, dial 0891 500 followed by the appropriate code.

Region	Forecast
Greater London	7-10
East Surrey/Sussex	7-10
West Surrey/Sussex	7-10
Devon & Cornwall	7-10
Wiltshire/Avon/Somerset	7-10
Berkshire/Bucks/Oxon	7-10
Bedfordshire & Essex	7-10
Northants/Suffolk/Cambs	7-10
West Midlands	7-10
West of England & Wales	7-10
Shropshire/Staffordshire	7-10
Central Midlands	7-10
East Midlands	7-10
Lincoln & Humberside	7-10
Yorkshire & Lancashire	7-10
North East	7-10
W & S. Ireland & Isles	7-10
N. Ireland	7-10
Channel Islands	7-10
W. Central Scotland	7-10
W. Scotland	7-10
E. Central Scotland	7-10
E. Scotland	7-10
W. Ireland	7-10
N. Ireland	7-10

AA ROADWATCH

For the latest AA traffic/roadworks information, 24 hours a day, dial 0336 401 followed by the appropriate code.

Region	Forecast
London & SE traffic, roadworks	7-10
Area within M25	7-10
East of M25	7-10
West of M25	7-10
Wales	7-10
North Wales	7-10
South Wales	7-10
Wales & Ireland	7-10
Channel Islands	7-10
W. Central Scotland	7-10
W. Scotland	7-10
E. Central Scotland	7-10
E. Scotland	7-10
W. Ireland	7-10
N. Ireland	7-10

HIGHEST & LOWEST

Monday: Highest day temp: Harrogate, East Sussex, 21°C (70°F); lowest day temp: Cape Wrath, Highland, 10°C (50°F); highest night temp: Llanwrthwl, 10°C (50°F); lowest night temp: Llanwrthwl, 10°C (50°F).

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General: Scotland will be mostly cloudy with some rain, heavy in western areas. Drier, brighter periods are possible in eastern parts. North-west Ireland will be cloudy with light rain or drizzle. Western England and Wales will be cloudy with patchy drizzle. Central areas should be mostly dry but cloudy. The best of any brightness is likely in eastern districts where it should also stay dry.

London, SE England, E Angles, E England: dry but fairly cloudy, bright at times. Wind light to moderate north-west, becoming westerly. Max 17C-18C (63F-64F).

Central S England, E Midlands, W Midlands, Central N, NE England: mostly dry, cloudy. Wind west to southwest moderate locally fresh to strong. Max 14C-16C (57F-61F).

Channel Islands: dry and bright. Wind northwest light becoming northerly for a time. Max 18C (64F).

SW England, S Wales, N Wales, NW England, Lake District, W Scotland, Glasgow, N Ireland: mainly cloudy with patchy light rain or drizzle. Wind moderate locally fresh to strong. Max 15C-17C (59F-63F).

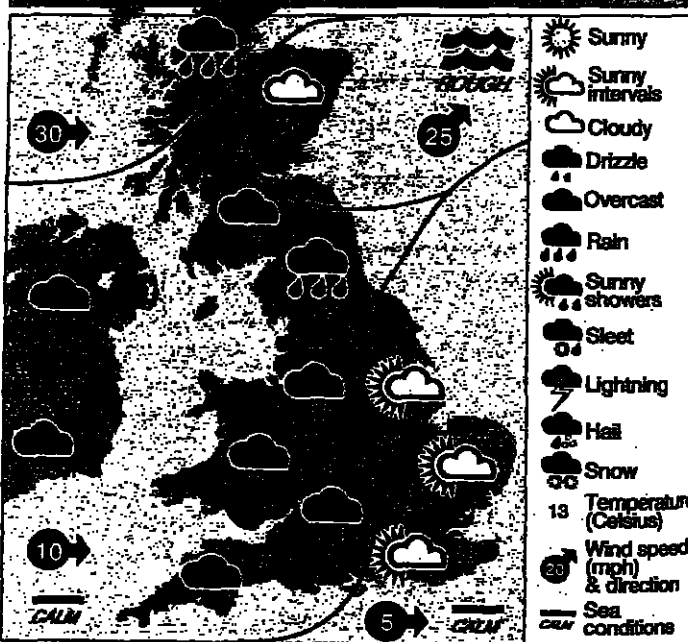
Wales: will be cloudy with patchy drizzle. Central areas should be mostly dry but cloudy. The best of any brightness is likely in eastern districts where it should also stay dry.

London, SE England, E Angles, E England: dry but fairly cloudy, bright at times. Wind light to moderate north-west, becoming westerly. Max 17C-18C (63F-64F).

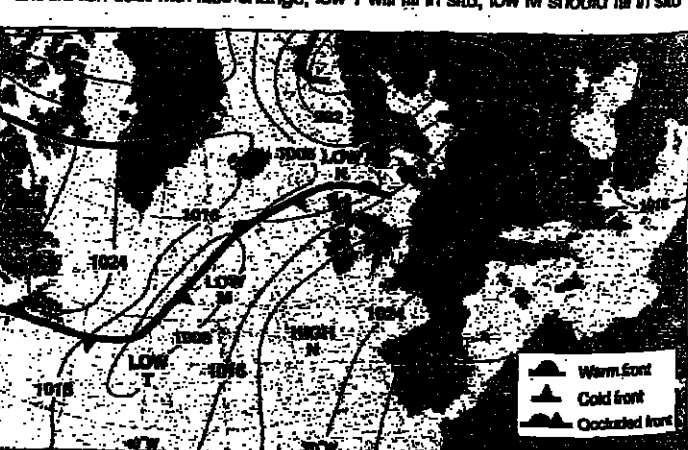
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Changes to the chart below from noon: high N will drift slowly east declining; low K should run east with little change; low I will be in situ; low M should be in situ



Today: London Bridge 6.30 AM, 10.15 AM, 4.15 PM, 7.15 PM. London 6.45 AM to 6.57 AM. Bristol 6.50 AM to 7.07 AM. Edinburgh 6.54 PM to 7.11 AM. Manchester 6.54 PM to 7.11 AM. Perth 7.08 PM to 7.19 AM.

Today: London Bridge 6.30 AM, 10.15 AM, 4.15 PM, 7.15 PM. London 6.45 AM to 6.57 AM. Bristol 6.50 AM to 7.07 AM. Edinburgh 6.54 PM to 7.11 AM. Manchester 6.54 PM to 7.11 AM. Perth 7.08 PM to 7.19 AM.

Today: London Bridge 6.30 AM, 10.15 AM, 4.15 PM, 7.15 PM. London 6.45 AM to 6.57 AM. Bristol 6.50 AM to 7.07 AM. Edinburgh 6.54 PM to 7.11 AM. Manchester 6.54 PM to 7.11 AM. Perth 7.08 PM to 7.19 AM.



ARTS 31-33

Nun the wiser:
Wendy Beckett
pursues her art



HOMES 35

Rachel Kelly on
the failure of
leasehold reform



SPORT 39-44

Check your
First XV
rugby scores

EXECUTIVE
SECRETARY
SHOW
Page 38

THE TIMES

BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 28 1994

CBI comes to Clarke's aid

Business chiefs want boost to investment in return

By Philip Bassett, Industrial Editor

BUSINESS leaders broadly endorsed the Government's handling of the economy. The Confederation of British Industry called for tight control of public spending and measures to help small business, while urging Chancellor Kenneth Clarke to resist pressure for tax cuts.

Mr Clarke and other ministers will welcome the CBI's support for their strategy, as well as its confidence that recovery is on track. Industry leaders are hopeful that, in return, the Chancellor will take measures in his forthcoming Budget to stimulate industrial investment.

In particular, they believe the Government is likely to reform capital gains tax, to promote long-term investment. Business acknowledges that reforms to lighten corporate tax burdens might be politically difficult for ministers while cuts in personal taxation are rejected. But the Treasury is thought to be keen on capital gains tax reform this year than it has been in the past.

Business also believes that the Treasury may offer to help to increase employment by looking favourably at the tax elements of the relationship between benefits and low earnings.

The CBI yesterday set out its

own priorities for the Chancellor. It said it was "happy with the way the recovery was proceeding". Growth had been higher than either the Government or the CBI had expected, and inflation and unemployment lower.

The CBI wants the Chancellor to take measures that keep the recovery on course. These include:

- Maintenance of tight controls on public spending, with reduction of the contingency reserve by £5 billion in 1995-96 and £12 billion in 1997-98.
- Spending cuts aimed at

reducing the public sector borrowing requirement to a greater extent, and more quickly, than was envisaged at the time of last year's Budget.

- A range of relatively minor tax adjustments, mostly aimed at promoting investment, especially by small businesses.

CBI leaders accept, though, that uncertainty about overall demand is still the main constraint on investment.

gains tax to encourage individuals to build up and retain wealth in businesses; a 100 per cent tax allowance for the first £200,000 invested in plant and machinery; and extension of tax relief for child care provided by employers.

Howard Davies, the CBI's director-general, said the main recommendation was "if it ain't broke, don't fix it". However, the CBI repeated its warning that unemployment was still too high and that the recession had revealed some "fundamental weaknesses" in the economy.

Its leaders accept that the Chancellor only has scope for "modest manoeuvre" on tax in the Budget; they insist, in particular, that Mr Clarke should reject calls for cuts in personal taxation.

Mr Davies said: "The Government is still rebuilding credibility in the financial markets. For it to come to the market with a programme of tax cuts, having just brought in a programme of tax increases, would be seen as a very curious move and would almost certainly mean interest rates would rise more quickly and more than we would like."

Leaders of the free-market Institute of Directors are expected to support cuts in taxes in their Budget submission, to be published tomorrow.



Howard Davies, chief of the CBI, after introducing its Budget submission yesterday

Strong stance boosts Sears

By Susan Gilchrist

THE recovery story continued unabated at Sears as the Selfridges to Debenhams retail group beat even the most optimistic City forecasts with a 38 per cent rise in profits.

Liam Strong, the chief executive who was brought in two and a half years ago to mastermind the turnaround, said the increase reflected improved retailing skills across the group.

Pre-tax profits jumped to £53.8 million, from £38.9 million, in the six months to July 31 on sales up 4 per cent at £949.6 million (£913.4 million). Like-for-like sales rose 4.6 per cent. The restructured footwear division again made solid progress, bolstered by a positive contribution from new formats such as Shoe Express and Shoe City.

Profits also rose at Freemans, the home shopping business, and Selfridges, which benefited from the first phase of a £50 million refurbishment programme.

Trading was mixed in the high street fashion businesses. A strong performance from womenswear was offset by difficulties at the Adams childrenswear chain and the Olympus sports stores.

Mr Strong said attempts to reposition the Adams brand, which has been hit by increased competition from Mothercare and Woolworths, resulted in stock shortages of key lines. Mr Strong said the problems had now been addressed and like-for-like sales in the second half were up 4.5 per cent.

The Olympus high street stores suffered from the general trend away from trainers towards hiking shoes. However, the out-of-town Sportsworld format and Mallets achieved strong results.

Current trading has started well, with like-for-like sales up 7 per cent. The interim dividend is 1.05p (1p).

Tempus, page 26
Cutting the risk, page 27

BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDICES

FT-SE 100	3008.5	(+8.7)
Yield	4.2%	
FT-SE All share	1507.52	(+2.34)
Nikkei	19488.89	(+345.47)
New York		
Dow Jones	3653.67	(+10.43)
S&P Composite	461.25	(+0.47)

US RATE

Federal Funds	4.5%	(6.1%)
Long Bond	5.28%	(30.1%)
Yield	7.81%	(7.80%)

LONDON MONEY

3-mth interbank	5%	(5%)
Life saving rate	99	(100)

STERLING

New York	1.5775	(1.5720)
London	1.5775	(1.5749)
DM	2.4418	(2.4492)
FF	1.2870	(1.2871)
SF	2.0227	(2.0272)
Yen	164.51	(165.34)
£ index	78.7	(78.8)

US DOLLAR

London	1.5482	(1.5536)
DM	1.2840	(1.2871)
SF	2.0227	(2.0272)
Yen	98.20	(98.75)
£ index	62.0	(62.3)

Tokyo close Yen 98.46

NORTH SEA OIL		
Brent 15-day (Nov)	\$16.35	(\$16.50)

GOLD

London close	\$395.45	(\$395.85)
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* denotes midday trading price

Amex's Fimbra fine overturned

By Robert Miller

AMERICAN Express, the credit card company with more than 30 million cardholders, yesterday had a £50,000 fine overturned on appeal. Amex was also awarded costs against the Financial Intermediaries and Brokers Regulatory Association (Fimbra), by the appeals tribunal.

News of the Fimbra fine was leaked in June before Amex had a chance to appeal against the decision taken by the regulator's disciplinary committee. The fine equalled the second largest ever imposed by Fimbra, along with that levied on Knight Williams, which specialises in income retirement planning.

The offence of which Amex had been accused and fined was that it had sent out more than 900,000 direct mail packages, which contained allegedly misleading and inaccurate information on a Norwich Union endowment policy.

Graham Satterfield, director of American Express Insurance Services, said he was "delighted" that the company's reputation had been cleared.

He added: "We felt very strongly that the decision was unfair and unsubstantiated. We did not receive a single complaint about the mailing nor did Norwich Union. We understand that Norwich Union checked the literature with Lauto, its regulator, which made no comment."

Codrington Killings, chief executive of Fimbra, said last night: "I am satisfied that the leak of the fine did not come from Fimbra."

Today, Fimbra holds a final extraordinary meeting to formally hand over its powers to the Personal Investment Authority, the new sole regulator for firms that sell products direct to the public.

Applications to join the PIA must be lodged by midnight on Friday. So far, it has received 4,386 applications out of a possible 5,500 and 2,032 firms have been accepted.

ShareLink slides 51p on warning

By Michael Clark

SHARELINK, Britain's biggest private-investor dealing service, saw its own share price tumble 51p to 187p after issuing a profits warning that highlighted the problems faced by brokers after the dramatic drop in stock market volume.

The company said it had traded at a loss for the first four months of the current financial year and was forecasting a pre-tax deficit of £500,000 for the six months to September 30. But it hoped to maintain the interim dividend of 3p and also the final payment of 6p.

The second half of the year was traditionally stronger and the group had traded profitably in August and expected better profits in September. Analysts had been forecasting full-year profits of between £4 million and £6 million. ShareLink came to market in July, 1993, at 250p and had seen its price touch 412p earlier this year.

Tempus and markets, page 26

Corness to take over as chairman of Glaxo

By Melvyn Marcus, City Editor

SIR COLIN Corness, Redland's chairman, is to be named the non-executive chairman of Glaxo, the UK's largest drug combine, in succession to Sir Paul Girolami.

In June, it was disclosed that Sir Paul would retire at November's annual meeting. News that Sir Colin's appointment has effectively been agreed comes shortly after publication of Glaxo's 1993-94 accounts, which show that Sir Paul will bow out with a two-year financial package amounting to £9.6 million.

Sir Colin will work closely with Sir Richard Sykes, Glaxo's deputy chairman and chief executive. Sir Colin is a member of the Court of the Bank of England and chairman of Nationwide Building Society. He is a non-executive director of SG Warburg and Chubb Security. Lord Kingsdown, a non-executive director of Glaxo, was formerly the Bank's Governor.

Sir Paul relinquished his executive responsibilities in

the summer of last year and chose to chair Glaxo, in a non-executive capacity, until his retirement at the annual meeting scheduled for November 18. The company stated that Sir Paul's successor would be non-executive.

Appointing senior industrialists as non-executive chairmen of blue chip corporations, separating the role from that of chief executive, is becoming established practice. This month, Sir Denis Henderson, the head of ICI, announced that he would be succeeded as chairman of Zeneca, the pharmaceutical enterprise, by Sir Sydney Lipworth.

The scale of Sir Paul's departure package, one of the highest ever awarded to a UK executive, will fuel controversy over industry's boardroom largesse. Sir Paul received remuneration totalling £5.13 million in 1992-93 and a further £4.45 million, including a pension top-up of £2.27 million, in 1993-94. According to Glaxo, the package "meets

contractual obligations". Ernest Mario, Glaxo's former chief executive, was awarded compensation of £2.7 million over three years.

Pennington, page 25

ICI to write off £125m in EVC float

By Neil Bennett, Deputy Business Editor



Enore dell'Isola, left, and Nigel Taylor, EVC finance director

ICI, the chemicals group, will suffer a £125 million write-off when it floats its PVC manufacturing joint venture with EniChem of Italy in November. The two companies have decided to float EVC on the Amsterdam stock market rather than in London, in a deal that will value the business at up to £426 million.

EVC, Europe's largest manufacturer of PVC, announced yesterday that it is pressing ahead with the float and hopes to publish a prospectus at the end of next month. ICI and EniChem will sell off 60 per cent of the company. EVC estimates the value of the float will be between £219 million and £256 million.

Nigel Taylor, EVC's finance director, defended the decision to quote the shares in Amsterdam. He said the market had been chosen because EVC was a European company with its headquarters in Brussels. Many of its competitors, such as Solvay, were also

based nearby. The company said that a dual listing had not been looked at since EVC's shares will be easily tradable on Seaq International.

EVC said that the shares will be sold in a global offering to institutional investors and a Dutch retail offer. ICI and EniChem will both be left with stakes worth about 20 per cent after the float, which they have agreed to

Pennington 27

keep until the company publishes its figures for the year to December 31, 1995.

EVC was formed in 1986, when ICI and EniMont (EniChem's predecessor) agreed to merge their PVC operations. The company produces 1.1 million tonnes of PVC a year in Britain, Italy and Germany, making it the fourth largest manufacturer in the world. Demand for

PVC, which is being substituted in many of its traditional uses by polyethylene, is in long-term decline.

EVC has suffered badly from the recession in Europe and sank to a £270 million loss in 1991, followed by a £111 million loss last year. A series of price rises last autumn helped to pull EVC back to a profit of £16 million in the first half, although prices are still a fifth lower than their peak in the late eighties.

A spokesman for ICI said the group is suffering the heavy write-offs on assets that it is injecting into EVC before flotation. The disposal is a sign of the determination of Ronnie Hampel, ICI's chief executive, to strip the group down to profitable businesses where it can add value and compete in world markets.

Enore dell'Isola, EVC's chairman, said that flotation would give EVC independence and enable it "to plan the future with confidence".

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TRADE INDUSTRY

CI undercuts foreigners to heat up UK coal market

By Ross Tieman, Industrial Correspondent

CUT-PRICE coal from privatised British mines is starting to win back lost markets at home and overseas, Malcolm Edwards, chairman of Coal Investments, said yesterday.

Two shiploads of coal from CI's Silverdale Colliery, in Staffordshire, have been bought by customers in Finland, and CI has begun trials for the use of Liverpool docks to ship coal to the Continent.

Speaking at a ceremony to open the new Hem Heath Colliery, Mr Edwards said a supply contract has been agreed with AHS Emstar, the leading contract heating company. Coal from Hem Heath was being tried by British Steel, Zeneca, Brunner Mond, Royal Ordnance and Staffordshire County Council.

CI is investing £5.5 million to reopen Hem Heath, the second of four "redundant" pits leased by CI from the soon-to-be-privatised British Coal Corporation. Of that, £3.6 million has been spent on two continuous miners, revolutionary machines that will drive five-metre roadways

through the newly opened South West Hams seam, at 50-metre intervals. Cutting coal at up to 20 tons a minute, the machines will allow the colliery to adopt a form of subsidence-free mining that leaves 90 per cent of the three-metre thick seam in place.

Even so, there will be 20 years of work on the 10-million ton seam. Extractable reserves at Hem Heath exceed 100 million tons.

John Wilcox, 38, the mine's manager, said he expects Hem Heath to become profitable in July next year. The mine will produce coal at less than £29 per ton, CI believes, below the cost of imported coal.

Hem Heath will produce 500,000 tons of low-sulphur coal a year, primarily for industrial and household markets. Before closure in November 1992, Hem Heath had 1,300 employees producing 2 million tons of coal a year for power stations.

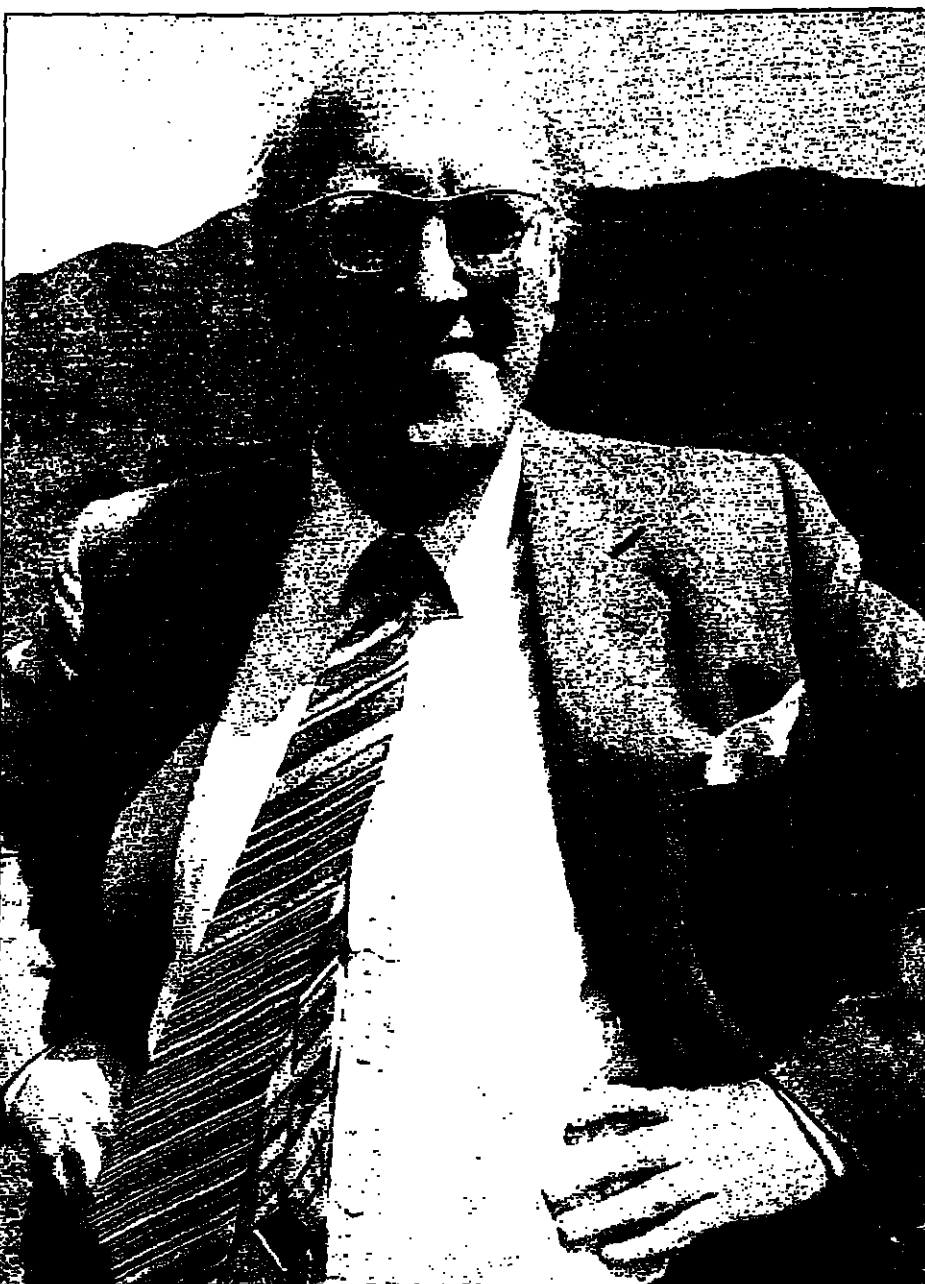
CI will work the mine with just 150 miners, each producing 3,000 tons of coal a year. It is unlikely that contract workers will be used. Productivity will be twice as high as that achieved by British Coal using more traditional long-wall techniques.

The workforce is drawn from former British Coal miners in the Staffordshire coalfield. There were ten applications for every job, almost invariably from former miners who had already found other work.

The average wage of £1,200 a month will be about £150 less than that paid by British Coal. Instead of a cash bonus, the miners will receive shares in CI through an employee share-ownership scheme.

The Government has pencilled in October 10 as the date to announce the preferred bidders, chosen from among 18 tenders, to acquire five regional coal companies.

City Diary, page 27



Contracts are piling up for Coal Investments, says Malcolm Edwards, group chairman

French bank deep in red

By Colin Nambrough

CRÉDIT LYONNAIS, the state-controlled French bank that delayed its interim results last week, yesterday unveiled a Fr4.5 billion first-half net loss, more than quadruple the interim loss of last year.

The disagreement over risk provisions of bad debt, built up when the bank deliberately expanded to become the biggest in Europe, was one of the main reasons for the results delay. Jean Peyrelevade, the chairman appointed by the French government last year to turn round the bank, insisted that the state inject more capital into the ailing institution in addition

to the billions of francs it has already provided.

The first-half loss was much worse than the market had expected and suggests that the Fr6.9 billion loss for the whole of last year is likely to be surpassed this year. But Crédit Lyonnais, which has been hit by a mountain of bad loans, many politically inspired, confidently expects the full-year loss to be smaller.

The bank said that the government had reaffirmed its "full support" to aid recovery of the institution. Transfers to provisions for the first six months came to Fr1.0 billion, including Fr4.8 billion

for covering exceptional risks. It highlighted that the bank's solvency ratio is now 8.1 per cent, just above the minimum 8 per cent required for European banks.

Marc Vienot, chairman of Société Générale, a rival French bank, voiced concern yesterday that the problems at Crédit Lyonnais could create an "image problem" for the French financial markets. He urged M Peyrelevade to dispose of his Crédit Lyonnais assets as fast as possible to help restore its capital base. Improving the bank's equity capital had to be the priority, he added.

Walker's 'years of bogus profits'

By Our City Staff

GEORGE Walker, the former property and leisure chief, went to great lengths to conceal years of dishonesty and bogus profits, Southwark Crown Court was told.

Peter Rook, QC, for the prosecution, said the 65-year-old businessman lied repeatedly to Brent's Walker's auditors, the Serious Fraud Office and, more recently, to those trying him.

Continuing his final address, Mr Rook said yesterday that at each stage Mr Walker had varied parts of his story. "It is always much easier to remember the truth. If you are putting forward a fictional story it is much more difficult to put forward a consistent story," Mr Rook said.

He claimed Mr Walker and others in his company tried to lay bogus deals at the feet of a business colleague who had died — but that each time Mr Walker was questioned about that his answers changed. "You will want to examine why the versions shift so much," Mr Rook suggested.

Why should Mr Walker, then group chairman and chief executive, go to "such lengths" with his alleged conspirators, Mr Rook asked. "The prosecution say the answer is very simple — to cover false profit takings that had taken place in previous years and particularly to preserve those false profits."

If the truth had come out, particularly in 1989 when the group was expanding rapidly, it would have had a "devastating" effect on the company, Mr Rook said.

The Crown has claimed that a lot of Brent Walker's growth in the 1980s was encouraged by presenting a false picture of glowing financial health.

Mr Walker has said in evidence that many things had apparently occurred in his company which he could not explain. Too busy to deal with detail, he would often put his signature to documents without reading them, but equally there were vital papers before the court where his signature had been forged, he said.

The trial continues.

Court rules López can work for Volkswagen

A GERMAN labour court has ruled against a suit by Opel, a subsidiary of General Motors, the American carmaker, and allowed a purchasing chief who had moved to Volkswagen to continue working for the company. Opel had sought to prevent José Ignacio López de Arriortúa, who left Opel in 1993, from working at VW. Opel accused Señor López of taking with him confidential information and unfairly recruiting seven Opel workers for VW. But Hans-Peter Syperek, a labour judge in Braunschweig, said he saw no reason not to let Señor López work. "López has worked for VW for a year-and-a-half and his knowledge has already been transferred," Herr Syperek said.

The court's ruling does not have any bearing on the separate complaint by Opel that accuses Señor López of taking confidential documents and knowledge with him when he went to VW. The labour court also rejected a suit by seven of Señor López's colleagues who went from GM or Opel to Volkswagen at the same time as he did. They wanted to have Opel forced to drop any measures that might prejudice their labour relationships. The judge found that the seven could not prove any interest in enjoying such protection.

Goodhead out of red

GOODHEAD, the printing and publishing group that made a loss of £16.95 million in 1993, returned to profit in the year to May 31, earning £40,000 before tax. The company, which passed its interim dividend, is paying a nominal 0.05p final. There was an operating profit of £48,000 from continuing operations, against losses of £1.01 million, on sales of £25.9 million (£25.6 million). The company has made substantial disposals.

Eastern power plan

EASTERN Electricity, the privatised regional electricity distribution company, plans to build a second gas-fired power station at King's Lynn, Norfolk, and is taking full ownership of a similar plant at Peterborough, Cambridgeshire. Eastern has also signed a deal to buy about £200 million of North Sea gas from the Schooner field 80 miles off Bridlington, Humberside. About 300 people will build the King's Lynn plant, which will have a staff of 40.

Transtec gives warning

SHARES in Transtec fell 13p, to 54p, when the specialist engineering group warned shareholders that second-half results were unlikely to match last year's level after first-half profits slumped to £3 million before tax from £5.6 million. The company's control and manufacturing technology division was hit by sharply lower orders from the aerospace sector, traditionally its most profitable market. Earnings fell to 2.5p from 4.5p. The interim dividend is maintained at 1.3p.

Britton advances

BRITTON Group, the folding cartons and polythene packaging company, said it was already achieving cost savings at NCM, the fellow packaging company acquired in June for £121 million. The enlarged business was now well established, with two strong divisions, the company said. In the six months to June 30, Britton increased pre-tax profits to £3.75 million from £28,000, with earnings rising to 4.79p a share from 2.78p. The interim dividend is 1p, up from 0.6p.

US confidence falls

CONSUMER confidence in the American economy fell in September for the third month, as Americans grew more pessimistic about conditions now and in coming months, the Conference Board reported. The survey of American households also showed fewer respondents planned major purchases in September than in August. An index derived from survey results fell to 88.4 in September, down from a revised 90.4 reading in August, 91.3 in July and 92.5 in June.

Latin American boost

LATIN American economies need to grow twice as fast and sharply boost exports if they are to reduce the widespread poverty that still plagues the region, the World Bank said. Latin American countries should end 1994 with an average rise of 3.5 per cent in their gross domestic products, a moderate improvement over last year's average of 3.2 per cent and 1992's 2.8 per cent, according to Sebastian Edwards, the bank's chief economist for Latin America and the Caribbean.

Eastern Airline plan

A CHAPTER 11 plan has been filed under which the majority of Eastern Airline's general unsecured creditors would receive an 11 cent per dollar cash distribution. All general unsecured creditors with claims of \$100,000 or less will receive their distribution on the effective date of the plan, expected to be the first quarter of 1995. About 150 general unsecured creditors with claims of \$100,000 plus will receive several distributions of 9 to 14 cents per dollar.

GEC Plessey project

GEC Plessey Semiconductors is to invest about £100 million in the expansion of its Rotherham, Plymouth, plant. The first phase of the programme will be complete in 1996, and will create more than 150 jobs. The infrastructure is in place to increase the present clean room area from 12,000 to 30,000 sq ft. The additional area will enable the plant's output to be quadrupled. Up to 10 per cent of the capacity will be used for advanced product and process development programmes.

TOURIST RATES

	Bank	Bank
	Buy	Sell
Australia S	2.26	2.05
Austria Sch	18.19	16.69
Belgium Fr	53.44	49.04
Canada \$	2.23	2.03
Cyprus Cyp	0.778	0.728
Denmark Kr	10.20	9.40
Finland Mk	8.32	7.62
France Fr	6.50	6.10
Germany Dm	2.30	2.20
Greece Dr	360.00	360.00
Hong Kong \$	12.81	11.81
Ireland P	1.06	0.96
Italy Lit	255.00	240.00
Japan Yen	170.50	153.50
Malta	0.518	0.558
Netherlands Gld	2.889	2.689
Norway Kr	11.23	10.49
Portugal Esc	200.00	210.00
S Africa Rd	REF.	5.44
Spain Pta	210.00	195.00
Sweden Kr	12.57	11.57
Switzerland Fr	2.17	1.99
Turkey Lira	REF.	51765.0
USA \$	1.673	1.543

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank plc. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

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Barclays offers free terms for charities

By Patricia Tehan, Banking Correspondent

BARCLAYS gave in to peer pressure yesterday with the launch of free banking for charities.

The bank said its new community account will benefit around 120,000 of its customers who switch to it and Barclays hopes the move will enable it to retain its share of the market and attract more of this business. The new account pays interest on credit balances and credits are free, as are the first ten withdrawals each month. Subsequent debits are charged at £1.50.

The account will be open to charities, other fund-raising activities or communal activities, benefiting organisations such as the Brownsies. The move means that Barclays, Britain's biggest bank, joins two of the big four, Lloyds and Midland, which have been offering special accounts for charities, clubs, churches and societies since last year.

The Co-operative Bank, Girobank and the TSB are also competing for charities' accounts with free banking packages. The banks emphasise that their aim is not to make a profit out of good causes. National Westminster, which like Barclays had been offering free banking to some charities at the discretion of individual bank managers, launched a new free banking package in June for clubs, charities and societies with a turnover of less than £25,000. However, unlike the other three big banks, NatWest does not pay interest on the account, although it said yesterday that accounts are always under review.

Barclays said its new community account customers will also receive a free audit letter or certificate of balance on request at the end of each financial year.

Under previous arrangements at the bank, the majority of clubs, charities and societies with a low level of transactions were eligible for free banking, but did not receive interest on credit balances. The largest charities will continue to be treated as businesses, paying for the services they receive. Those services, and the charges they pay, are negotiable.

GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

NOTICE OF INTENT

BUILD-OWN-OPERATE-TRANSFER CHANCERY LANE MULTI-USE COMPLEX

The National Insurance Property Development Company Limited (NIPDEC) acting on behalf of the Government of Trinidad & Tobago, intends to invite proposals from suitably qualified firms or consortia for the design, construction and operation of a multi-use complex on approximately 0.64 hectares (1.5 acres) of land at Chancery Lane, in San Fernando on a Build-Own-Operate-Transfer (BOOT) basis.

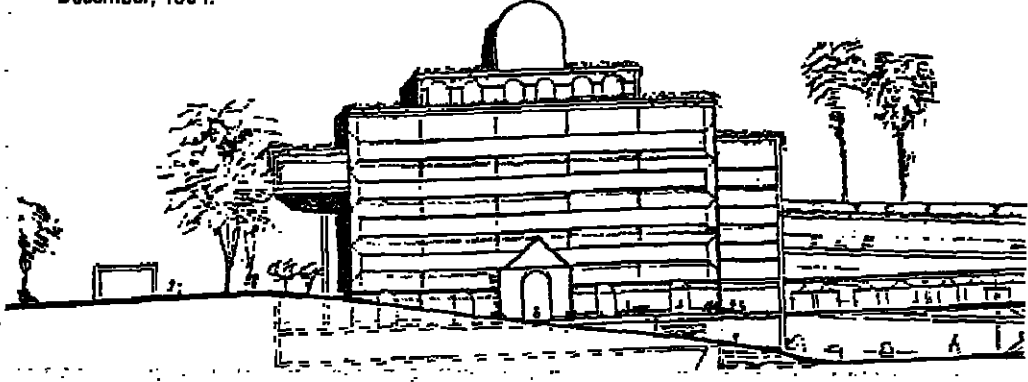
The Complex will provide 22,500 square metres (242,000 sq. ft.) of office accommodation for a number of Government agencies and other commercial activity, parking for a minimum of 300 cars, and such other facilities proposed by the developer which are in harmony with the land use guidelines established by the Town and Country Planning Division.

Firms and consortia wishing to participate will be expected to possess levels of project implementation experience, financial resources, management, planning and design capabilities and experience in operating similar facilities that would demonstrate ability to undertake this project. Pre-qualification questionnaires and other relevant information will be available for collection at NIPDEC's Head Office, 56-60 St. Vincent Street, Port of Spain, Trinidad from 3rd to 14th October, 1994 upon payment of a fee of Two Hundred U.S. Dollars (US\$200.00) or its T.T. equivalent.

Expression of interest along with proponent qualifications and completed pre-qualification questionnaires should be addressed to:

The Project Manager - "Chancery Lane Complex"
National Insurance Property Development Company Limited
56-60 St. Vincent Street,
Port of Spain
Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, West Indies
Tel: # 1-809-625-9165-7 Fax # 1-809-623-0877

To reach no later than 15th November, 1994. Shortlisted developers will be notified by 15th December, 1994.



LEGAL & PUBLIC NOTICES

071-782.7101

LEGAL NOTICES

BROOK CERRANES LTD notice is hereby given pursuant to Rule 106 of the Insolvency Rules 1986, that on 14/09/94 a Special Meeting of the Creditors of the above named company will be held at the offices of Messrs. G. & J. A. Legal, 11th Floor, 11th Street, London EC2A 4DP, on 11th October 1994 at 11.00 am for the purpose of appointing a Liquidator of the company. A list of names and addresses of the creditors of the company is available at the offices of Messrs. G. & J. A. Legal, 11th Floor, 11th Street, London EC2A 4DP, on 11th October 1994 at 11.00 am for the purpose of appointing a Liquidator of the company. A list of names and addresses of the creditors of the company is available at the offices of Messrs. G. & J. A. Legal, 11th Floor, 11th Street, London EC2A 4DP, on 11th October 1994 at 11.00 am for the purpose of appointing a Liquidator of the company. A list of names and addresses of the creditors of the company is available at the offices of Messrs. G. & J. A. 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ICI's waste disposal □ Steady as you go Budget support from the CBI □ A deal to be done at the OECD

Not on my capital market

ICI has been accused of many environmental crimes in recent years, but the flotation of EVC International is a new one: corporate waste dumping. ICI and EVC are together shipping their unwanted chemical business to The Netherlands and offloading it on to the Amsterdam stock market. Rather than the "Not on My Back Yard" syndrome, this is clearly the first example of "Not on my capital market".

Physically, PVC is a harmless enough material, but financially it is one of the most dangerous substances known to the stock market. EVC has a £270 million hole in the accounts of its owners only three years ago, and now they want to dump it before it does any more damage.

ICI is paying dearly to remove EVC. The £25 million written down it is suffering from the flotation does not compare favourably with the £45 million the group should earn from selling its shares. A more relaxed company might be tempted to stick with EVC for a little while longer, now it has finally dragged itself back to profit, but ICI wants to go while the going is good and take any profit on the cyclical upturn in the market when it sells its remaining stake in 1996.

The reason for PVC's violent cyclical is twofold. First, it is

used heavily in the building industry, for guttering and window frames, so demand fluctuates with the level of construction activity, which is in turn highly sensitive to economic conditions. Second, PVC is not a particularly popular plastic in many areas: it is being substituted by other, less brittle materials. On average, global demand is still growing by 4 per cent a year, but in many regions it is static.

As a result, the price for PVC is more volatile than the chemicals which make it. From a high point of £1,850 per tonne in the late Eighties, the price crashed to just £1,000 at the bottom of the recession and has now recovered to £1,400.

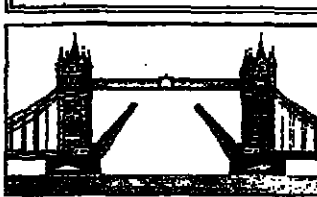
Anyone who buys shares in EVC then is going to need a little Dutch courage as the company's profits whizz up and down. Over the length of the cycle the return from the business may well be respectable. EVC is, after all, the fourth largest PVC manufacturer in the world. Any business with a market position as strong as that should be able to take advantage of it.

The company claims that it wanted to float on the Amsterdam stock market rather than come to London, since it is based in Brussels and its competitors, such as Solvay, are also quoted in the Low Countries. But all this reasoning rings hollow, considering how dominant London is as a European equity centre. The best excuse is that EVC wanted its own identity, far away from its former parents with whom it will inevitably be compared. But the investment world is becoming more attuned to environmental issues, and may not take a favourable view of corporate waste dumping.

Consensus of the bland

THE great thing about the CBI's Budget proposals is that they are not meant to be portentous: just a little steady-as-you-go support for the Chancellor. Employers expatiate on the need to "improve and raise the level of investment", to support stability and low interest rates and do nothing to put upward

PENNINGTON



pressure on inflation. The CBI urges the Government to maintain public investment despite pressure on spending; give tax aid "aimed at supporting business investment"; allow capital gains tax relief for long-term equity investment and corporate tax relief for capital investment by small firms.

Sounds familiar? It would be to anyone listening to Gordon Brown attempting to enthuse a friendly audience with the more pretentious "new agenda" of Labour's "flagship policies". These aim to achieve sustainable growth in the economy but "not take risks with inflation". Apart from the usual accent on training, they featured investment in infrastructure via public/private

partnerships, and investment in industry by encouraging long-term investment instead of short-term high dividends and takeovers. And yes, a key policy is to give tax relief for investors who commit long-term equity funds for investment in industry.

Much of this is hard to disagree with. The Chancellor had already shot the fox of imminent tax cuts. Indeed, the fox looked remarkably like a sitting duck given that Mr Clarke has already booked substantial selective tax increases for 1995-96.

Labour ideas on partnership between government and industry to "make markets work more dynamically" sounds exactly what Michael Heseltine promised before public spending realises dimmed his vision. And the CBI/Brown musings on long-term equity investment chime uneasily with what Stephen Dorrell had in mind when, in his previous job as Financial Secretary, he set up a study of funding for industry.

Such palliatives will not transform the economy. But they will surely scare pension funds, who

fear that yet more of their tax relief on investment will be whittled away, adding yet more hidden employment costs.

What has fairness to do with it?

FILLING a top job in an international institution is a game of political musical chairs in which leading nations try to fill as many posts as they can and do Byzantine deals to secure the seat of their choice.

This is not the ideal way to choose the best person for the job, and has led to a diplomatic gridlock of huge proportions. As a result, the succession at the OECD has been left unsettled for months. America is presently too busy promoting Carlos Salinas de Gortari, the outgoing Mexican president, as the next head of the World Trade Organisation.

The European Union, wants Renato Ruggiero, a former Italian trade minister, instead. Kim Chul Su, South Korea's Trade Minister, the only other contender for the WTO job, is not taken seriously. The contest for

the WTO seat is so intense that any decision over who will head the OECD, the rich nations' think tank, remains near-impossible. Donald Johnston, former president of the Canadian Liberal party, is an odd choice for the Americans to champion. Jean-Claude Paye, the current incumbent, has the European Union's vote for another term.

There is the unmistakable whiff of a deal in the air. The obvious solution from the WTO-OECD impasse is to let Señor Salinas, having worked hard for free trade in North America, have the WTO, freeing Signor Ruggiero for the OECD. This, however, would leave British hopes of winning Lord Lawson, the former Chancellor and OECD critic, the institution's top job, out in the cold. But no-one said the game was fair.

Ageing pill

SHAREHOLDERS in Glaxo may not begrudge Sir Paul Girolami his vast departure package. He has helped to create a world-class corporation and done well for them in the process, even if the succession was bogged and delayed too long. But why does the pension of such a long-standing employee need a £2 million top-up? A detailed explanation is in order, if only to reassure humbler employees.

Tarmac changes strategy to boost housing profits

By CARL MORTIMER

THE weak housing recovery has forced Tarmac to change its strategy on investment in the homes market in a bid to reduce the volatility of the group's profits.

Neville Simms, Tarmac's chief executive, announced a four-point strategy as he reported a recovery in interim pre-tax profits from £2.5 million to £23 million. In future,

Tarmac will seek to anticipate the UK housing cycle more effectively and control its dependence on the homes market. Expansion in overseas markets would reduce its exposure in the UK, he said, while professional services would be developed further alongside the licensing or franchising of its expertise.

The construction, quarrying and housebuilding group, which raised £215 million from investors in September last year, is to limit the amount of capital employed in housing. At its last peak, in 1988, the housing division absorbed 40 per cent of capital employed but Tarmac expects it will not absorb more than 25 per cent at the next peak of the housing cycle, Tarmac expects in 1996.

Sir John Banham, Tarmac's chairman, forecast a significantly better result for the full year after reporting a 62 per cent rise in operating profit from £25 million to £40 million in the six months to June 30 and a maintained dividend of 3p. Despite the profits rise, Tarmac shares fell 14p to 132p on fears over the outlook for housebuilding profits.

Tarmac sold fewer houses in the first half but improved average selling prices by 7 per cent, boosting operating profits from £15.3 million to £18.9 million. Tarmac continued to build up its land bank in the half year, boosting units from 11,000 to 15,000. Brokers expect it to sell 6,500 units in the full year, at the lower end of earlier expectations due to a slowing of demand in the second quarter.

Mr Simms said an overheated land market early in the year caused the company to hold back from buying. "We stood back from the market in the Spring, we just could not make the numbers work." Tarmac is expecting raw materials price rises of 4-5 per cent in the current year.

Construction margins fell from 1.6 per cent to 1.2 per cent in continuing difficult trading, causing operating profits to fall from £7.6 million to £6



Sir John Banham, left, and Neville Simms yesterday

million, but quarry products and building materials advanced strongly. Demand for stone, gravel and ready-mixed concrete increased 7-9 per cent in the half year, boosting turnover 10 per cent and taking profits up from £5 million to £14 million. Selling

prices of bricks and blocks gained between 8 and 12 per cent, taking profit in building materials up from £1 million to £4.5 million and the company reports prices are still a long way from their peak.

Tempus, page 26

Alexon reduces losses to £2.2m

By SUSAN GILCHRIST

RECOVERY at Alexon is proving a long, slow haul. The womenswear group reported continuing losses in the first half.

There was a pre-tax loss of £2.2 million in the six months to July 30, compared with a £9.9 million loss the previous time. Patrick Cooper, the chairman, said the improvement had resulted from contraction of the loss-making Dash brand and cost-cutting, which had saved £3.2 million in central overheads.

The 100 Dash concessions in department stores were now profitable, a spokesman said, but stand-alone stores were still losing money. Thirty-eight Dash stores have been converted to the new Ann Harvey outside brand and a further 12 conversions are planned this year.

Most remaining Dash stores will be converted to a

new format called Kaliko, aimed at younger, fashion-conscious customers. This will compete with established chains such as Next and Oasis. The group plans to open 12 stores in November. The spokesman said the chain was expected to make losses, but these were likely to be lower than Dash's.

Elsewhere, like-for-like sales declined but Easter delivered a solid performance. Mr Cooper said current trading gave grounds for cautious optimism. New season merchandise at Alexon was achieving double-digit sales growth and Easter continued to make progress. However, he emphasised that the business was still at an early stage in its recovery programme. Losses were reduced to 5.28p a share from 37.47p. Again, there is no interim dividend.

Saudi prince checks into hotel group

By JON ASHWORTH

THE billionaire Saudi prince who came to the rescue of Euro Disney during its crucial refinancing this summer is paying £165 million (£79 million) for a key stake in Four Seasons, the Canadian hotel group.

Prince al-Waleed bin Talal, 37, who has investments in Citicorp and Saks Fifth Avenue, is buying a 25 per cent stake in Four Seasons from Isadore Sharp, the chairman and president. The prince has set aside a further £500 million for the development of the Four Seasons/Regent luxury hotel chain. A hotel being developed by him in Riyadh will be one of the first to benefit. Four Seasons, the world's largest operator of luxury hotels, has been selling non-strategic assets in an attempt to reduce debt. In July, Prince al-Waleed bought 50 per cent of the Fairmont Hotel chain, based in San Francisco.

Free lunches off the menu at Lehman

LEHMAN Brothers said yesterday that it was laying off a third of its brokers, reducing the number to 200 (Sean Mac Carthaigh writes from New York).

It also announced that it would break with Wall Street tradition and no longer pay its 1,500 traders and sales staff gobble down at their desks.

Observers said that the company, suffering from severely reduced profits, had launched a restructuring plan designed to focus its brokerage business on its strengths, managing assets of wealthy and institutional investors and underwriting sales of new stocks and bonds.

Merrill Lynch, the largest brokerage house in the US, had reportedly decided to abolish free lunches for traders a few weeks ago.

Dorling earnings suffer from distribution row

By PATRICIA TEHAN

THE cost of a dispute between Dorling Kindersley, the reference book publisher, and one of its distributors contributed to a decline in profit. The pre-tax figure was down £600,000, to £9.04 million, in the year to June 30.

Rod Hare, the managing director, said the combination of distribution problems, investment in new businesses and a slower than expected take-off by DK Education had caused profits to be about £2 million lower than the company would have liked.

The dispute between Dorling and Tiptree Book Services was resolved in April, when a confidential settlement was reached and Dorling said it was transferring distribution for the UK book trade to another firm.

Turnover for the year was 22.6 per cent higher, at £107.1



Kindersley: price fears

million. The firm's top-selling book in the UK was its *Encyclopedia of Gardening*; its bestseller in the US was the *Ultimate Sex Guide*. Earnings per share fell from 9.9p to 8.4p and the dividend was maintained at 3.3p.

Mr Hare believes prospects for the current financial year

are better: "If we achieve the profits we expect, we would expect to increase the dividend this year."

Peter Kindersley, Dorling's chairman and chief executive, stood by his support of the Net Book Agreement, which prevents retailers from selling some books at less than the official cover price. He said: "In the UK, the bookshop market is acknowledged to be flat and the situation is not being helped by the uncertainty over the future of the Net Book Agreement."

On Monday, Dorling criticised Hodder Headline for deciding to pull out of the agreement, saying this would lead to closure of smaller bookshops, fewer titles and ultimately higher prices.

Mr Kindersley said he expected strong trading from the group's US publishing division this year, and in other overseas markets in 1995.

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THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Not so secret secret

RICHARD Dickson, who on Friday retires from De Beers' corporate communications department after a third of a century at the diamond group, has now confessed that some years ago the Press got wind of a then secret De Beers-Russian connection. A director commanded Dickson to "tell the Press to phone the Russian embassy". An hour later, Dickson sheepishly reported the Press had followed his lead but the Russians had said: "De Beers handles our diamond sales. Phone 404-4444". "Interesting," said the director. "Isn't that our number?" Now, 15 years on, Dickson should know the other side of the story. The clever Press always knew anyway. They would dial 404-4444, mutter a few phrases in broken Russian to include "and when does the next metro reach Moscow central?", and then wait for the reply. "Hold the line, please. I'll put you through to the Russian desk on the fourth floor."

Coining it

BRITISH Airways has collected £500,000 in "pennies from heaven" since the April 4 launch of its Unicef Change for Good appeal, which asks long-haul passengers to donate unwanted foreign currency for charity. Bermuda's Bank of Butterfield is so taken with the appeal that its vaults have been cleared and today £2,300 made up of 52 different currencies — round, square, multi-coloured, you name it — arrived at Gatwick. In the "unwanted cash" BA passengers have donated, a good half of a week's average £20,000 is sterling and 20 per cent dollars. Thereafter, the order is Saudi Arabian riyals £1,488, HK dollars £1,223, Yen £885, SA rand £740, and £737 in Indian rupees.



"Will we take plastic?"

Chateau d'Hem

MALCOLM Edwards, former British Coal commercial director, has been buying back his old job via the chairmanship of coal investments, lived up to his lively reputation yesterday when reopening the Hem Heath Colliery in Staffs. Hem Heath, he told former Employment Secretary, David Hunt, would switch from the power station market to selling industrial coal. "Instead of the coal industry equivalent of plonk, it would move into the fine wine business," Edwards said. "I am looking forward to selling vintage Hem Heath — 1995 unblended Hems cobbles — a classic coal, if I may say so."

Company man

COWIE Group's recent change of name from T Cowie was nearly frustrated by one George Ronald Sheppard, 82, of Ilford, who tried to re-register one of his many companies as C.O.W.I.E before Companies House blocked him. Other Sheppard registrations include T. Horn Group, B.A.E. (Group), S.A. Insbury & Co. M.I.D. Land Group, and B77/P77 Group (sic), in all of which he is a director. I bet Sheppard cannot wait for October 1, when the cost of a company name-change falls from £50 to £20.

COLIN CAMPBELL

How stores cut the risk of becoming fashion victims

Susan Gilchrist reports on two high street retailers that brought discipline to the art of buying

Fashion retailing is a notoriously risky business. Get it right and you stand to make a mint, get it even slightly wrong and profits tumble. What looks good on the catwalk may repel consumers and leave the profit and loss account looking decidedly unattractive.

Anthony Freeling, a principal at McKinsey, the strategic management consultancy, says the key to success in fashion retailing is managing that risk. The more fashionable the product, the more important this is.

He says there are two types of risk facing fashion retailers. Firstly, the risk of buying ranges that customers do not want. This leaves the retailer burdened at the end of a season with excess stock that has to be heavily marked down, thereby depressing margins. Secondly, there is always the risk of running out of stock that customers want to buy, inevitably leading to lost sales and lower profits.

The rewards for those who get it right are considerable. "The companies that manage risk well can add a couple of percentage points to their net margin," says Mr Freeling. "That is certainly something worth going for."

But achieving it is no easy task. The biggest problem for retailers is that fashion buying has traditionally been seen as something of an art, rather than a science. Buyers have been left to follow their own instincts and taste on what to buy, rather than follow a more structured approach.

Derek Lovelock, chief executive of Sears Womenswear, which includes Miss Selfridge, Wallis, and Warehouse, has witnessed this frequently during his career in the industry. "Fashion buyers are put on this earth to do one thing — buy. And that is what they do if they are not controlled."

The result? Too much stock, too many markdowns and not enough profit. "If you're not careful, you end up with lots of options in the stores, but not many actual sales because all the customers can see is a mess," he says.

That was part of the problem facing Miss Selfridge when Mr Lovelock arrived at Sears two years ago. The chain was, and still is, widely viewed as the most fashionable multiple retailer on the high street.

In the industry, the ultimate accolade was to be appointed a Miss Selfridge buyer. But therein lay a weakness, as Mr Lovelock explains. "It was a buyer-driven business," he says. "They bought the leading edge of fashion and, therefore, the risk attached — however good you are, you can't always get it right. Profits were very volatile, swinging by up to 50 or 60 per cent."

The secret, says Mr Lovelock, was to get some form of discipline into the range planning, but at the same time maintain the fashion image, which after all was the cornerstone of its success. "The dreaded word was discipline, but it was key word," he



Selfridge miss: looking for street cred and the cutting edge of fashion

says. "We had to take the buyers along with us. There was a need to understand the customer rather than just buy what was fashionable."

The starting-point was to draw up a lifestyle portrait of the typical Miss Selfridge customer so that everyone in the business had the same idea of who the target customer was. After wide-spread market research, they came up with a portrait of "Emma". An 18-year-old student, Emma is in her first year at college doing media studies. She is fashionable, without being a fashion victim, and comes to Miss Selfridge for street credibility, as a place to find the cutting edge of fashion as well as the basics.

"We made some important discoveries by drawing up this portrait," says Mr Lovelock. "The research told us that Emma spends much of her time in jeans, although she likes to dress up at weekends. But we weren't selling jeans in our stores, so we were losing a possible sale." As a direct result, Miss

Selfridge is now stocking Levi jeans for the first time.

Mr Freeling believes understanding the customer in an in-depth way like this is crucial. "It's not a matter of just knowing their age. You have to have a deep understanding of how they shop. You need to know whether they want to buy jeans at £19.99 or at £39.99 so that you have the right price-points as well as the right products. In general, retailers don't know enough about their target customer."

Having got to grips with their customer, the next step for Miss Selfridge was to introduce that knowledge into the way it planned its ranges. After a series of brain-storming sessions, the buyers came up with what they call The Diamond. The structure splits the entire Miss Selfridge range into five different categories — Leading Edge, Unique, High Street Look, Current Basics and Absolute Basics — which span high fashion to everyday wear. The team then clearly defined the

kind of merchandise in each category, what proportion of customers are likely to buy from that category, the risk attached, the length of time the merchandise will be in the store and the main source of supply. They also calculated how much to buy in any given category.

By dissecting the business in this way, they could then plan a balanced range with a broad spread of risk.

This was very different to how it had been done before, says Mr Lovelock. "In the past, Miss Selfridge bought mainly what we now describe as Leading Edge and Unique. The moment the competition picked it up and it became High Street, they would say 'That's naff and move on to something else. We had done the hard work but the competition then benefited.' High Street is where the money is made, says Mr Lovelock, because that is where the risk falls below 50 per cent.

But has it worked? The results suggest it has. "Sales have increased substantially and markdowns have decreased by 5 per cent since The Diamond came in," says Mr Lovelock. "And the number of options in the stores has fallen by 30 per cent."

He insists the buyers are happy with the new system and do not feel they have been forced into boxes. "We are simply enabling them to make decisions more profitably. There is still plenty of room for creativity," he says.

Retaining this balance is crucial, according to Mr Freeling. "The trick is to combine art and science," he says. "You need art to create the taste, look and feel, otherwise you end up with something incredibly boring that people don't want to buy anyway. But science is also critical."

Next, one of the most dramatic recovery stories on the high street in recent years, has developed a unique way of minimising risk. The decision to market one range for both its stores and its mail order Directory has enabled the company to identify the winners ahead of its rivals. It sends out copies of the fashion section of the Directory to about 30,000 customers three months before the season starts.

"From their responses we can predict which lines are going to be good sellers and which aren't, and order appropriately," says David Jones, Next's chief executive. It is a time-honoured practice in the mail order business where Mr Jones and Lord Wolfson, Next's chairman, spent much of their careers. What is unique to Next is the ability to transfer this information to a retail chain. Mr Jones says the Next stores can now pick the best-sellers with more than 50 per cent accuracy.

It has also substantially reduced the level of markdowns. Not only does the group have a better idea of what is going to sell, but it can now move product between the stores and the Directory. "If we are over-stocked on the Directory we can switch product into retail and vice versa," says Mr Jones. The result? Next's pre-tax profits rose by 60 per cent in the first six months of this year, much of the growth fuelled by the benefits of the newly integrated range.

It is one of the most successful formulas on the high street, but even Mr Jones admits Next can never eliminate all the risk. Nevertheless he remains determined. "By minimising the risk, you can still have a major impact on profits."



ANTHONY HARRIS

US nightmares in London but not on Wall Street

The greatest investment of the post-war era must be Berkshire Hathaway, the investment company run by the legendary Warren Buffett. The shares have appreciated by more than 47 times (4,700 per cent) in the past 15 years, and by more than 1,100 times in the last 30. But even unexampled success jades the palate. Buffett is a value investor, and he is not finding value easily these days. "The best thing that could happen from Berkshire's standpoint, and I'm not wishing it on anyone," he said at the last annual meeting, "is to have markets go down a tremendous amount." The value-pickers' paradise.

Something of the same morning-after feeling seems to have taken root in London. There is no rational explanation for the fact that the London market fell sharply in anticipation of yesterday's meeting of the Federal Open Market Committee, while New York actually rose. The outcome is unknown as I write (the probable worst case is a "bias" towards tightening, leaving a decision on any rise to Alan Greenspan, the Fed chairman, as more evidence comes in). But it does not seem to matter to London bears. They share Buffett's yearning for a real 22-carat buying opportunity. "It will be bad news for bonds if the Fed moves, and bad news if it doesn't," a London broker told me yesterday. "Don't you agree?"

Well, no, actually. His reasoning assumes US inflation is rising (as does George Soros in a current New York interview, possibly for the same reason). A Fed tightening would then confirm the bad news: a failure to tighten would show a lack of vigilance, or still worse, a slavish concern about the mid-term elections. But it would be equally logical (or illogical) to assume that inflation will remain as subdued as it has been for the past three years. In that case, a Fed move would be a move too far, and suggest a future of falling rates: a standstill would confirm the good news.

The same man looks at the evidence: but on current US evidence, he may still be confused. The bear case rests on three main legs: US growth is unsustainably fast, and capacity is tight; input prices are rising sharply; and commercial bank borrowing is rising after a long slumber. All are questionable. The case for complacency is unfortunately just as shaky. Growth estimates for the first half-year have been revised upwards, but showed a sharp rise in inventories. In other words, industry over-estimated demand. Third-quarter growth may be as low as 2 per cent, on the latest estimates. Some input prices are up sharply; but this is not a new burst of inflation. It is a belated catch-up. Suppliers were slaughtered in the long buyers' market, and are just regaining sustainable margins. Meanwhile, food and energy costs are soft. Rising commercial borrowing is not a plausible cause of bond weakness, because it is a direct result of it. Borrowers have been driven out of the bond market and back to the banks: total borrowing is down.

On the low-inflation side, the housing market has been weakening for three months. This is taken to show that Fed tightening is already deflating the economy; but, in fact, the market appears to be stabilising at an annual rate of a little over 1.4 million, nearly double its trough at the end of 1990, and probably in line with demographic demand. The statistics for inflation and capacity are misleading. It is claimed, and in any case, a sharp rise in spending on plant and new factory space should eliminate bottlenecks. Possibly true, but US inflation numbers have always been too high, and investment could be a belated reaction to real bottlenecks.

In fact, the whole picture is far too indistinct to justify London's nightmares, or happy dream for that matter. The Fed will be unusually vigilant at the moment; but it is likely to be more concerned with politics than statistics. A big upset in the mid-term elections, leading to political gridlock, or a climatic flare-up in the trade talks with Japan are likelier to start a fever than the next inaccurate statistical

Colin Narbrough on the battle to head think-tank

Outside bet Lawson coming up on the rails in OECD stakes

Lord Lawson of Blaby, who once dismissed the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) as a "ministerial talking shop", is running the risk of being chosen as its next secretary-general.

OECD ambassadors are meeting at the think-tank's headquarters in Paris in a last-ditch attempt to end the deadlock that shows no signs of being broken after months of horse-trading.

Britain, in splendid isolation, has stuck by Lord Lawson, the former Chancellor of the Exchequer, as its contender for to succeed Jean-Claude Paye, the Frenchman who has held the post for two five-year terms.

M. Paye's current term expires on Friday, but the transatlantic disagreement over his successor has so far meant that neither the Americans' candidate, Donald Johnston, a former head of the Canadian Liberal Party, nor the European Union's man, M. Paye, can secure the support of the rival camp.

As OECD secretary-generals — there have been only three so far on the organisation's 33-year history — have to achieve consensus among the 25 member-states of the so-called "rich nations' club". The danger is that today's ambassadors' informal meeting behind closed doors will make no progress.

Washington's insistence that the job must go to a non-European, as the Europeans have monopolised the OECD since it emerged from the body set up to oversee the Marshall



Lord Lawson once questioned whether the OECD had any use

Aid programme after the Second World War. But the EU has a strong card in holding 12 seats at the table. Votes by Norway, Finland and Sweden in favour of joining the EU will give further muscle within the organisation. The European argument is that there is no limitation on the number of terms a secretary-general may hold. The one before M. Paye, Emil van Lennep, held the post for three full terms.

But America backed by Japan and Canada, has argued that fresh blood is needed and that the OECD, which

has expanded membership to Mexico and is preparing to let in South Korea, has to take on a more global role.

American resistance to M. Paye is also linked to Washington's dislike of too many Frenchmen in top posts in the big international organisations. Jacques de Larosiere, former head of the French central bank, was last year appointed head of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development in London. Michel Camdessus heads the International Monetary Fund.

Britain, and other European

countries, also dislike the way the French have been able to secure the presidency of the European Commission and other top international jobs. Lord Lawson is Britain's outside bet, should the two top candidates fall. But the Government has a problem regarding the OECD, as the organisation has been the target of much British criticism, including Lord Lawson's own public questioning of whether it had any real use.

But the almost £122,000 tax-free salary the OECD job carries makes it one of the plum international posts and could persuade many erstwhile critic to overcome their inhibitions about it.

The OECD, which has an annual budget of £200 million and a staff of about 2,000, focuses mainly on analysis of economic developments in member countries. Critics say it is too much the captive of member governments, on whose data its reports are drawn.

But its supporters see a useful role in its attempts to analyse economic developments on a common basis and believe its regular ministerial meetings provide a valuable forum to co-ordinate the key players in world economy.

Lord Lawson's free market views and support for deregulation would fit well with many of the OECD's views, but governments in continental Europe are suspicious of a man who has a reputation as something of a political bruiser. At the consensus-based OECD, one does not bang heads together.

Government has let pensioners down

From Mr Michael Smedley Sir, William Hague, the minister for social security and disabled people, has made it clear to the CBI that the Government is backing down from the Goode Committee's proposals requiring employers to include member-elected trustees on pension schemes.

Members of occupational pension schemes are increasingly worried about their pensions because of the rising number of exposures of scandals of pension scheme failures and frauds by employers.

The Confederation of Occupational Pensioners Associations (Copa) and many other pensioner associations, advocate that companies should appoint half the trustees, the other half to be elected by all the pension funds' members, including pensioners. This would help to safeguard the funds' assets, which are there for the sole object of paying pensions.

Pensioner associations that

How jets got teeth

From Dr E. Rosenstiel Sir, Your mining correspondent rightly praises the usefulness of cobalt in "superalloys for aerospace turbine blades" (Business News, September 19) but fails to acknowledge the debt owed to the dental craftsmen and women who were instrumental in making the turbine blades for the first flying British jet engines by using the technology available worldwide for casting chrome-cobalt dentures. Yours faithfully, Dr E. ROSENSTIEL, Emeritus Reader of London University in Dental Technology, Kings College, WC2.

Getting the timing right

From Stuart Noble Sir, I refer to recent correspondence regarding investment in Concorde Energy (now Kelt Energy).

I invested at 7p after the financial restructuring and am pleased to see the share price now stands at over 50p some three years later.

Like all investments, it is a matter of getting the timing right.

Yours faithfully, STUART NOBLE, 2 Windham Place, Burnley, Lancashire.

National Westminster Bank Interest Rates

National Westminster Bank announces the following change in interest rates effective from (and including) 28th September 1994

Lending		
SPECIAL SCHEME	Nominal Rate	APR(1)
Professional Trainee Loan Scheme	7.5%	7.6%

(1) The APR does not take into account any additional charges (e.g. arrangement fees/security charges) which may be applicable.

All regulated consumer credit agreements are varied accordingly.

National Westminster Bank Plc
41 Lombury, London EC2P 2BP

Float costs tip House of Fraser into the red

By SUSAN GILCHRIST

THE £8.5 million cost of flotation in April pushed House of Fraser, the department store group, into the red in the first half.

Brian McGowan, chairman, said almost £4 million had been spent on advertising and marketing, with the rest going to City advisers, which included SG Warburg, Freshfields and Price Waterhouse. "I'm afraid professional advisers don't come cheap," Mr McGowan said.

The group, reporting its first results as a public company, incurred a pre-tax loss of £4.5 million in the six months to July 30, compared with an £800,000 loss in the previous period. Excluding one-off items, underlying operating profits rose 11 per cent.

Like-for-like sales grew 10 per cent, although Mr McGowan said consumer demand remained unpredictable. Fashions, for both genders, performed strongly, but sales were sluggish in furniture and electricals. The

group is continuing to shift the product mix towards fashion items, in both clothing and housewares, which tend to have higher margins and are less price sensitive.

The group is spending £30 million this year refurbishing 11 stores as part of a three-year programme to revamp its 40 biggest sites. Andrew Jennings, managing director, said newly refurbished outlets had enjoyed a rate of sales growth of about 15 per cent.

Binnis, in Newcastle, is to close after a steady decline in performance. A new store is planned in the Brunel Centre, Swindon, which is due to open in October 1996.

The second half, which traditionally accounts for 90 per cent of sales, began slowly, partly because of the hot weather and train strikes, but sales have picked up strongly in the past few weeks. The company is paying a maiden interim dividend of 1.7p.

Tempus, page 26

My Kinda Town exceeds flotation profit forecast

By MARTIN BARROW, CITY NEWS EDITOR

MY KINDA Town, the American theme restaurant group founded by the late Bob Payton and brought to the stock market by Luke Johnson and Hugh Osmond, the entrepreneurs, earlier this year, exceeded its own flotation forecast with actual pre-tax profits of £1.93 million for the year to July 3, against a promised £1.9 million.

Turnover was £23.04 million, while earnings equate to 0.53p a share. There is no dividend for the year, as stated

in the placing document. However, the company intends to recommend an interim dividend in respect of the first six months of the current year. The shares were unchanged at 134p, compared with a flotation price of 10p.

Since flotation in May, the company has continued expanding in Britain and overseas, increasing the number of restaurants and bars to 31 from 29 by opening Henry J Bean franchises in Buenos Aires and Bangkok.



Richard Scott, finance director, left, and Andrew Jennings, hope for an escalation in sales in the second half

Investment boost for Brixton Estate

By CARL MORTSHED

AN INVESTMENT spree helped to boost rental income at Brixton Estate, the industrial property group, which reported a 27 per cent rise in pre-tax profits, to £16.4 million, in the half year to June 30.

Brixton has spent £123 million on new buildings since a rights issue last year. That helped to boost rents by 17 per cent, to £33.2 million, but Douglas Gardner, the chief

executive, sees no signs of a rise in underlying rental values. "We have not seen an increase in headline rents but we have seen a reduction in freebies," he said. Rent-free periods and capital contributions to tenants' fitting-out costs, common in the recession, were beginning to fall.

Despite the sluggish behaviour of rents, Mr Gardner reported strong growth in

demand for industrial and warehouse premises. Brixton agreed leasing terms for more than 160,000 sq ft of space during the summer, reducing the vacancy rate to 7 per cent.

The half-year result was helped by better profits from investment sales, which brought in £15.9 million, up from £12.9 million last time. Brixton starts work soon at Woking, Surrey, on 69,000 sq

ft of industrial development, a fifth of it pre-let. In Belgium, Brixton is suffering from falling rents, particularly for offices; in Germany, the company reports the beginnings of recovery, with rental income advancing from £15 million to £17 million. The dividend is raised by 4.4 per cent to 2.95p, payable out of earnings per share of 5.47p (5.5p).

COMPANY NEWS

CULVER HLDGS (Int)
Pre-tax: £350,000
EPS: 0.34p (0.3p)
Div: 0.13p (0.11p)

Previous interim profit was £183,000. Turnover rose to £22.95 million, from £11.1 million. Recovery still not robust.

FORTUNE OIL (Int)
Pre-tax: £583,000
EPS: 0.06p (1.63p loss)
Div: Nil (nil)

There was a £163,000 loss last time. Turnover was £34 million, against £226,000. Outlook for rest of the year is bright.

HALSTEAD (JAMES) (Fin)
Pre-tax: £9.9m (£8.7m)
EPS: 22.5p (20.23p)
Div: 4.75p, mkg 7.5p

Total dividend in previous year was 6.5p. Turnover rose to £69 million, from £59.4 million. Raw material prices rising.

JBA HOLDINGS (Int)
Pre-tax: £294,000
EPS: 0.19p (2.67p loss)
Div: 0.8p (nil)

There was a loss of £1.07 million last time. Turnover rose to £38.5 million, from £29.9 million. First results since flotation.

PARAMOUNT (Fin)
Pre-tax: £527,000
EPS: 0.6p (0.43p)
Div: 0.2p, mkg 0.2p

Profit was £450,000 previously and dividend was 0.15p. Turnover rose to £3.6 million, from £2.6 million.

WENSUM (Int)
Pre-tax: £509,000
EPS: 4.58p (0.58p)
Div: 1.5p (0.825p)

Previous interim profit was £56,000. Turnover was £5.6 million, up from £4.12 million. Gearing cut to 19 per cent, from 69 per cent.

Filtronic poised for £60m value on debut

DAVID Rhodes, a Yorkshire academic, is expected to realise up to £15 million when Filtronic Comtek, the hi-tech company he founded six years ago, is floated on the stock market next month. The company, which supplies microwave devices for the telecommunications industry, will be valued at about £60 million when it comes to the market through a share placing by Panmure Gordon, the broker. In the three years to May 31, pre-tax profits have grown to £1.12 million from £105,000, with sales rising to £10.2 million from £1.23 million over the same period. In the three months to August 31, pre-tax profits were £807,000 and sales were £6.2 million.

The £25 million share placing will raise £14 million. The company intends to spend £4.6 million on capital expenditure and £4 million on R&D in the next three years. The balance will reduce borrowings and fund expansion in Britain and America. Professor Rhodes will retain between 15 and 20 per cent of the equity. The board will hold up to 22 per cent, with venture capital firms and institutions holding the balance. Dealings are due to start on October 24.

Huntleigh healthier

HUNTLEIGH Technology, the medical and industrial instruments group, has raised its interim dividend to 2.75p a share (2p) after a rise in taxable profits to £5.3 million (£3 million) in the six months to the end of June. Earnings were 12.18p a share (7.45p). Group turnover more than doubled to £35.4 million (£16.3 million). The underlying rise in turnover from former Huntleigh units was 28 per cent. Group debt at June 30 was £4.2 million, for gearing of 31 per cent.

Yule Catto optimistic

YULE Catto, the speciality chemicals and building products group, forecasts record sales and profits for the full year after good progress in the first half. The company is paying an interim dividend of 2.8p, up 9.8 per cent, after a 42 per cent rise in pre-tax profits, to £13.1 million, in the six months to June 30. Operating profits from chemicals increased by 29 per cent, to £12.2 million; the building materials division raised its operating profit from £1.8 million to £2.6 million.

Intermediate advances

INTERMEDIATE Capital Group, the provider of mezzanine finance whose shares were floated in June, made available £36 million of new loans in the first half of the current year. In the six months to the end of July, the company's pro-forma profits rose to £9.7 million before tax (£6 million). Pro-forma earnings were 13.8p a share (8.7p), and there is a proposed interim dividend of 3.75p a share, up 14 per cent on last time's notional figure.

Edible oils alliance

ARCHER-Daniels-Midland (ADM), an agricultural products group based in America, is buying a 22.5 per cent stake in Acetos & Hutcheson, the UK edible oils group, as part of an alliance between the companies. The purchase by ADM of 9.5 million shares, at 288p each, will raise £27 million for A&H. The two companies will build and operate an edible oil refinery and a bottling and canning plant next to ADM's oil seed crushing plant at Erith, Kent.

What a day. Low flying weather. A falling stock market. A terrible meeting. A dreadful train jam. And then, at last, something to be about.



Lufthansa

Welcome aboard.

Yr	Mid	Other	Yr	Mid	Other
9					

**WE HOPE WE WON'T
BE WORKING WITH
YOU FOR VERY LONG**

The Emerging
Companies
Team
provides
specialist corporate
finance advice that
gives the green light
to growing businesses



who want to
grow bigger.
To get your
business
on the road to
success, speak to
Patrick Wilson
on 071 375 5000.

Small gains at close

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place ten business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

1994 High Low Company	Price	Net Yld	P/E
BANKS, DISCOUNT, HP			
321 391 Abbey Ltd	385.1	4.2	50.129
322 392 Abbey Ltd	385.1	4.2	50.129
323 393 Abbey Ltd	385.1	4.2	50.129
324 394 Abbey Ltd	385.1	4.2	50.129
325 395 Abbey Ltd	385.1	4.2	50.129
326 396 Abbey Ltd	385.1	4.2	50.129
327 397 Abbey Ltd	385.1	4.2	50.129
328 398 Abbey Ltd	385.1	4.2	50.129
329 399 Abbey Ltd	385.1	4.2	50.129
330 400 Abbey Ltd	385.1	4.2	50.129

1994 High Low Company	Price	Net Yld	P/E
DRAPERY, STORES			
331 401 Drapery	100.0	4.0	10.0
332 402 Drapery	100.0	4.0	10.0
333 403 Drapery	100.0	4.0	10.0
334 404 Drapery	100.0	4.0	10.0
335 405 Drapery	100.0	4.0	10.0
336 406 Drapery	100.0	4.0	10.0
337 407 Drapery	100.0	4.0	10.0
338 408 Drapery	100.0	4.0	10.0
339 409 Drapery	100.0	4.0	10.0
340 410 Drapery	100.0	4.0	10.0

1994 High Low Company	Price	Net Yld	P/E
BREWERIES			
341 411 Brewery	150.0	5.0	15.0
342 412 Brewery	150.0	5.0	15.0
343 413 Brewery	150.0	5.0	15.0
344 414 Brewery	150.0	5.0	15.0
345 415 Brewery	150.0	5.0	15.0
346 416 Brewery	150.0	5.0	15.0
347 417 Brewery	150.0	5.0	15.0
348 418 Brewery	150.0	5.0	15.0
349 419 Brewery	150.0	5.0	15.0
350 420 Brewery	150.0	5.0	15.0

1994 High Low Company	Price	Net Yld	P/E
BUILDING, ROADS			
351 421 Building	120.0	4.0	12.0
352 422 Building	120.0	4.0	12.0
353 423 Building	120.0	4.0	12.0
354 424 Building	120.0	4.0	12.0
355 425 Building	120.0	4.0	12.0
356 426 Building	120.0	4.0	12.0
357 427 Building	120.0	4.0	12.0
358 428 Building	120.0	4.0	12.0
359 429 Building	120.0	4.0	12.0
360 430 Building	120.0	4.0	12.0

1994 High Low Company	Price	Net Yld	P/E
ELECTRICITY			
361 431 Electricity	180.0	6.0	18.0
362 432 Electricity	180.0	6.0	18.0
363 433 Electricity	180.0	6.0	18.0
364 434 Electricity	180.0	6.0	18.0
365 435 Electricity	180.0	6.0	18.0
366 436 Electricity	180.0	6.0	18.0
367 437 Electricity	180.0	6.0	18.0
368 438 Electricity	180.0	6.0	18.0
369 439 Electricity	180.0	6.0	18.0
370 440 Electricity	180.0	6.0	18.0

1994 High Low Company	Price	Net Yld	P/E
BUSINESS SERVICES			
371 441 Business	140.0	5.0	14.0
372 442 Business	140.0	5.0	14.0
373 443 Business	140.0	5.0	14.0
374 444 Business	140.0	5.0	14.0
375 445 Business	140.0	5.0	14.0
376 446 Business	140.0	5.0	14.0
377 447 Business	140.0	5.0	14.0
378 448 Business	140.0	5.0	14.0
379 449 Business	140.0	5.0	14.0
380 450 Business	140.0	5.0	14.0

1994 High Low Company	Price	Net Yld	P/E
ELECTRICITY			
381 451 Electricity	180.0	6.0	18.0
382 452 Electricity	180.0	6.0	18.0
383 453 Electricity	180.0	6.0	18.0
384 454 Electricity	180.0	6.0	18.0
385 455 Electricity	180.0	6.0	18.0
386 456 Electricity	180.0	6.0	18.0
387 457 Electricity	180.0	6.0	18.0
388 458 Electricity	180.0	6.0	18.0
389 459 Electricity	180.0	6.0	18.0
390 460 Electricity	180.0	6.0	18.0

1994 High Low Company	Price	Net Yld	P/E
CHEMICALS, PLASTICS			
391 461 Chemical	160.0	5.0	16.0
392 462 Chemical	160.0	5.0	16.0
393 463 Chemical	160.0	5.0	16.0
394 464 Chemical	160.0	5.0	16.0
395 465 Chemical	160.0	5.0	16.0
396 466 Chemical	160.0	5.0	16.0
397 467 Chemical	160.0	5.0	16.0
398 468 Chemical	160.0	5.0	16.0
399 469 Chemical	160.0	5.0	16.0
400 470 Chemical	160.0	5.0	16.0

1994 High Low Company	Price	Net Yld	P/E
FINANCIAL TRUSTS			
401 471 Financial	110.0	4.0	11.0
402 472 Financial	110.0	4.0	11.0
403 473 Financial	110.0	4.0	11.0
404 474 Financial	110.0	4.0	11.0
405 475 Financial	110.0	4.0	11.0
406 476 Financial	110.0	4.0	11.0
407 477 Financial	110.0	4.0	11.0
408 478 Financial	110.0	4.0	11.0
409 479 Financial	110.0	4.0	11.0
410 480 Financial	110.0	4.0	11.0

1994 High Low Company	Price	Net Yld	P/E
FOODS			
411 481 Food	130.0	5.0	13.0
412 482 Food	130.0	5.0	13.0
413 483 Food	130.0	5.0	13.0
414 484 Food	130.0	5.0	13.0
415 485 Food	130.0	5.0	13.0
416 486 Food	130.0	5.0	13.0
417 487 Food	130.0	5.0	13.0
418 488 Food	130.0	5.0	13.0
419 489 Food	130.0	5.0	13.0
420 490 Food	130.0	5.0	13.0

1994 High Low Company	Price	Net Yld	P/E
INSURANCE			
421 491 Insurance	170.0	6.0	17.0
422 492 Insurance	170.0	6.0	17.0
423 493 Insurance	170.0	6.0	17.0
424 494 Insurance	170.0	6.0	17.0
425 495 Insurance	170.0	6.0	17.0
426 496 Insurance	170.0	6.0	17.0
427 497 Insurance	170.0	6.0	17.0
428 498 Insurance	170.0	6.0	17.0
429 499 Insurance	170.0	6.0	17.0
430 500 Insurance	170.0	6.0	17.0

1994 High Low Company	Price	Net Yld	P/E
HOTELS, CATERERS			
431 501 Hotel	140.0	5.0	14.0
432 502 Hotel	140.0	5.0	14.0
433 503 Hotel	140.0	5.0	14.0
434 504 Hotel	140.0	5.0	14.0
435 505 Hotel	140.0	5.0	14.0
436 506 Hotel	140.0	5.0	14.0
437 507 Hotel	140.0	5.0	14.0
438 508 Hotel	140.0	5.0	14.0
439 509 Hotel	140.0	5.0	14.0
440 510 Hotel	140.0	5.0	14.0

1994 High Low Company	Price	Net Yld	P/E
INDUSTRIALS			
441 511 Industrial	150.0	5.0	15.0
442 512 Industrial	150.0	5.0	15.0
443 513 Industrial	150.0	5.0	15.0
444 514 Industrial	150.0	5.0	15.0
445 515 Industrial	150.0	5.0	15.0
446 516 Industrial	150.0	5.0	15.0
447 517 Industrial	150.0	5.0	15.0
448 518 Industrial	150.0	5.0	15.0
449 519 Industrial	150.0	5.0	15.0
450 520 Industrial	150.0	5.0	15.0

1994 High Low Company	Price	Net Yld	P/E
INVESTMENT TRUSTS			
451 521 Investment	120.0	4.0	12.0
452 522 Investment	120.0	4.0	12.0
453 523 Investment	120.0	4.0	12.0
454 524 Investment	120.0	4.0	12.0
455 525 Investment	120.0	4.0	12.0
456 526 Investment	120.0	4.0	12.0
457 527 Investment	120.0	4.0	12.0
458 528 Investment	120.0	4.0	12.0
459 529 Investment	120.0	4.0	12.0
460 530 Investment	120.0	4.0	12.0

1994 High Low Company	Price	Net Yld	P/E
BRITISH FUNDS			
461 531 British	100.0	3.0	10.0
462 532 British	100.0	3.0	10.0
463 533 British	100.0	3.0	10.0
464 534 British	100.0	3.0	10.0
465 535 British	100.0	3.0	10.0
466 536 British	100.0	3.0	10.0
467 537 British	100.0	3.0	10.0
468 538 British	100.0	3.0	10.0
469 539 British	100.0	3.0	10.0
470 540 British	100.0	3.0	10.0

1994 High Low Company	Price	Net Yld	P/E
PAPER, PRINT, ADVTG			
471 541 Paper	110.0	4.0	11.0
472 542 Paper	110.0	4.0	11.0
473 543 Paper	110.0	4.0	11.0
474 544 Paper	110.0	4.0	11.0
475 545 Paper	110.0	4.0	11.0
476 546 Paper	110.0	4.0	11.0
477 547 Paper	110.0	4.0	11.0
478 548 Paper	110.0	4.0	11.0
479 549 Paper	110.0	4.0	11.0
480 550 Paper	110.0	4.0	11.0

1994 High Low Company	Price	Net Yld	P/E
LEISURE			
481 551 Leisure	130.0	5.0	13.0
482 552 Leisure	130.0	5.0	13.0
483 553 Leisure	130.0	5.0	13.0
484 554 Leisure	130.0	5.0	13.0
485 555 Leisure	130.0	5.0	13.0
486 556 Leisure	130.0	5.0	13.0
487 557 Leisure	130.0	5.0	13.0
488 558 Leisure	130.0	5.0	13.0
489 559 Leisure	130.0	5.0	13.0
490 560 Leisure	130.0	5.0	13.0

1994 High Low Company	Price	Net Yld	P/E
PROPERTY			
491 561 Property	140.0	5.0	14.0
492 562 Property	140.0	5.0	14.0
493 563 Property	140.0	5.0	14.0
494 564 Property	140.0	5.0	14.0
495 565 Property	140.0	5.0	14.0
496 566 Property	140.0	5.0	14.0
497 567 Property	140.0	5.0	14.0
498 568 Property	140.0	5.0	14.0
499 569 Property	140.0	5.0	14.0
500 570 Property	140.0	5.0	14.0

1994 High Low Company	Price	Net Yld	P/E
MINING			
501 571 Mining	160.0	6.0	16.0
502 572 Mining	160.0	6.0	16.0
503 573 Mining	160.0	6.0	16.0
504 574 Mining	160.0	6.0	16.0
505 575 Mining	160.0	6.0	16.0
506 576 Mining	160.0	6.0	16.0
507 577 Mining	160.0	6.0	16.0
508 578 Mining	160.0	6.0	16.0
509 579 Mining	160.0	6.0	16.0
510 580 Mining	160.0	6.0	16.0

1994 High Low Company	Price	Net Yld	P/E
MOTORS, AIRCRAFT			
511 581 Motors	170.0	7.0	17.0
512 582 Motors	170.0	7.0	17.0
513 583 Motors	170.0	7.0	17.0
514 584 Motors	170.0	7.0	17.0
515 585 Motors	170.0	7.0	17.0
516 586 Motors	170.0	7.0	17.0
517 587 Motors	170.0	7.0	17.0
518 588 Motors	170.0	7.0	17.0
519 589 Motors	170.0	7.0	17.0
520 590 Motors	170.0	7.0	17.0

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ARTS



INTERVIEW page 32
Diminutive but dynamic:
Nobuko Albery is
radically changing the
face of theatre in Japan

THEATRE page 33
A fairytale love story with
a twist: Jonathan
Harvey's *Beautiful Thing*
comes to the West End



To life, the universe and everything

Tomorrow, Sister Wendy Beckett, the other-worldly wise pundit on matters artistic, publishes her sixth book. Ros Drinkwater spoke to her

While I am paying for breakfast, Sister Wendy studies the *Racing Post*. She loves horse-racing. "I've a talent for knowing which one wants to win," she says. Rain has souped up the pavement-cast photo session. We need somewhere indoors where she will feel comfortable. Has she, I ask, ever seen religious art painted on mailbags? She has not. Thank the Lord for the mobile, a quick

Anything that matters, all truth and beauty, is a form of God?

call and we're off to the Scrubs. En route, hoping she will not notice, I make an illegal U-turn. "That's what the BBC call 'doing a ewie'," she says. Wendy Beckett is the 64-year-old nun and media personality who is about to embark on a major television series based on her latest and sixth book, *The Story of Painting*. In it she describes the *Mona Lisa* as having "the innocent disadvantage of being too famous". The same might be said of Beckett herself; there is a danger that her true worth is obscured by her media image — an adorable nun with a talent for soundbites.

It is partly her own fault: trying to interview her one is constantly side-tracked by her un-nunlike behaviour. She does not see it that way and is dismayed by my perception of nuns. "We're not at all cut off from the world," she says. "Anyone who reads and thinks a great deal knows an awful lot about what makes people tick."

She is surprised when people do not think the way she does. "I'm much more cautious now in saying what comes into my head in case people find it bizarre," she says. She shocked one heavy-weight scribble with her views on sex organs. She has no time for prudery. "I'm taken aback by the narrowness of some people's views of God's creation, that some things seem to them unclean, as if God had made a mistake."

She tries not to mind when



Sister Wendy Beckett finds beauty — granted, without having to look terribly hard — in the otherwise unlikely surroundings of Wormwood Scrubs prison

television executives that she had been asked to do a one-off television programme. This led to another and an appearance on *Wogan* that made her a household name. Her fame baffles her. "Someone who sits alone in a caravan with God is not someone you can say a great deal about," she says. "But I don't mind being the hook that catches the fish."

She defines her talent as "knowing how to talk to people in the sense that I know how to share something that matters to me". Her mission was

to find beauty, is a form of God. The way you communicate doesn't matter."

She reminds me that it was the Tower of Babel that destroyed man's ability to communicate. "Before Babel we could all speak to one another. Then the people built this great tower and, as a punishment for their pride, God confused their language so they couldn't talk to each other. Now the point about art is that it breaks through the language barrier, it communicates at the level before Babel."

The Story of Painting follows the same simple format as her earlier books: an introduction, a picture with commentary and, in certain cases, a breakdown of the painting, analysing its component parts. I mention that before I had read her book I had never noticed the trapeze artist in Manet's *The Bar at the Folies-Bergère*. "Now what the trapeze artist does is inject an element of recklessness into a rather static confrontation, suggesting that there is far more to see if only we were

OPERA: Cinderella triumphs in a case made for a family abuse inquiry; replacement principals upstage their elders

Happily ever after

HOW our perceptions of an opera can change. Twenty years ago Rossini's *Cinderella* was too often written off as not quite as good as the *Barber*, today, especially with so much more experience of his serious operas, we recognise it as something completely different, a witty sentimental comedy of (not very good) manners and one with a fervent moral purpose: to celebrate the triumph of simple virtue over cynicism, corruption and snobbery.

The steadfastness with which the heroine faces and transforms a vividly portrayed

La Cenerentola
Covent Garden

job culture, declaring that her only revenge on those who have persecuted her is to forgive them, tempts one to describe it as Rossini's *Fidelio*.

Not that there is much sign of this in the rather awful Hampe production with which the Royal Opera is saddled, even one marginally cleaned up by David Massarella, and the success of Monday's revival depended on the degree to which individ-

ual artists overcame its preciosity.

Three of them did particularly well. Raúl Giménez played Prince Ramiro as if he were in the opera seria in which none of his music would sound out of place; he was in golden voice, and phrased with beguiling musicianship. The same was true of Alastair Miles, singing Alidoro for the first time: his performance as the opera's moral arbiter was one of great dignity and seriousness, and he made light of his aria's hideous difficulties.

But the show is all but stolen by Simone Alaimo as Don Magnifico, the wicked stepfather to end them all, and one of 19th-century opera's great roles. He is a buffoon, but a buffoon steeped in corruption and — in intent if not in practice — a homicidal but-fun. Alaimo made you laugh at an earlier performance, and he stepped easily into Tosca's shoes, a role she has already sung with the Welsh National Opera. She looks like a diva with her glistening auburn hair, and knows how to behave like one on stage, which fits in neatly with Keith Warner's "All Rome's a theatre" production. Her



(From left) François le Roux, Olga Borodina and Raúl Giménez in a scene from Rossini's *La Cenerentola*

glitzy-eyed malevolence. A virtuoso impersonation, sung (too loudly?) in gloriously fruity Italian.

François le Roux remains miscast as Dandini; he can't lie too low for the coloratura, and his performance is just surface camp with none of the

melancholy lying just behind the notes. And, lively though Jennifer Rhys-Davies and Christine Botes are as the sisters, they are made to rely too much on a pantomime tradition utterly alien to Rossini.

As for the dramatic mezzo Olga Borodina, in the title role, like all Russian singers of her generation her technique is so well-founded that she has no difficulty with the notes. When she gives her voluminous voice enough room, the roulades and turns are shaped with fluency and charm, and there is a reserve to her manner that is rather touching. But she is not, perhaps, one of nature's Cenerentolas.

Bruno Campanella conducted a brisk, well-prepared performance, drawing excellent playing from the orchestra. This may not be the greatest *Cenerentola* you have ever heard, but its status as one of the greatest operas remains undimmed. As with *The Magic Flute*, you come out feeling a slightly less unsatisfactory human being than when you went in.

RODNEY MILNES

All right on the night

Tosca
Coliseum

soprano has lustre and strength and, barring a slight glitch in "Vissi d'arte", this was an accomplished and confident performance — no special subtleties, but time can bring those.

Gerald Sward, who has been singing with Australian Opera, played Cavaradossi as a puppyish figure, leaving Tosca — to his considerable cost — to make life's

big decisions. The part may be a bit heavy for him at this stage in his career. There is a clear lyric tilt to the tone, but he has to hoist the voice up for some of the high notes, especially the fortissimo ones. Rossini and Donizetti may be the better bets for the moment.

The minus factor of having two young and vibrant singers on show is that Henrik Smit's Scarpia looks even older than ever. His arrival in Act 1 would surely strike terror into the mind of a timid grandchild. Edward Chamberlain, leaving the torture byles to throw up, is also clearly past retirement age. Rome's police force could do with an injection of youth.

In the pit, Sir Alexander Gibson treated his debutants with considerable kindness. But the old Gibson touch with Puccini was mainly missing.

JOHN HIGGINS

ROMANIA CALLING

THE TIMES

THEATRE CLUB

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Designed to self-destruct

As the Design Council closes its London showplace and embarks on yet another facelift, Joe Joseph wonders what went wrong

The British are keen on good design but, like St Augustine, apparently not just yet. The Design Council, in London's Haymarket — which is British design's most public face, but not always its most arresting one — is to be closed this week. Its death is confirmation that the Design Council, having already endured more facelifts than Phyllis Diller, is still unsure which profile to show the world. And in November it will go under the surgeon's knife yet again.

The revamped council's staff is to be shrunk by three-quarters to barely 50. For the first time a designer — John Sorrell of the consultancy Newell & Sorrell — is being installed as unpaid chairman. Designers are rejoicing at the chance to start afresh: they have decided the new council's survival will lie in proving that good design is not just a pretty face, but a profitable one.

The megaphones for this latest brand of designer evangelism will be the 200 *Business Links* now being opened by the Department of Trade and Industry around the country. Michael Heseltine, the President of the Board of Trade, wants to take "the message of design to the towns and the cities in a way we have not dreamt of before... We are pushing right out to the marketplace, supporting the idea of getting design to those areas where people don't necessarily understand the importance of design."

But, who is to blame for their ignorance up until now, and for the strange belief that what consumers ache for is not stylishly simple products unscarred by silly gimmicks, but a new shape of "designer" pasta, or a fake-fur-clad teapot, or hatchbacks whose "designer" bodywork looks like a lurid 60mph shell suit? If this is the best that design can do, it not only deserves to die: it demands to be smothered at birth.

It must be embarrassing for the council that when good design is supposed to last — think of the Coca-Cola bottle, of Mies van der Rohe's Barcelona chair, of Raymond Loewy's Shell oil logo, or his bull's-eye Lucky Strike cigarette pack — the Design Council cannot devise a structure for itself that survives even a decade. Will the new take-the-mountain-to-Muhammad council carry more punch than its predecessors? And why was the old one a failure, anyway?

Because it became too large, and tried to do too many things, says Dick Powell of the industrial design partnership Seymour Powell. He thinks it did not spend enough time doing what it was mandated to do: showing British industry the importance of design. "It was a spectacular failure. British industry is as blinkered as ever. It still thinks that design is something you wash on with a 6in paintbrush at the end."

Powell, who has designed everything from Tefal kitchen appliances and Pentax cameras to InterCity trains, says the priority "is to solve the problem of what British industry thinks design is. The Design Council



In 1940 Raymond Loewy bet the company \$50,000 that his Lucky Strike pack design would boost sales

couldn't be part of the solution because it was part of the problem. It didn't understand what design was. Margaret Thatcher did more for the design cause by championing it on television, and in seminars in Downing Street, than the Design Council has ever done."

Sorrell will bare all the details of the new council in November. Enthusiastic and diplomatic, he is not keen to criticise the *ancien régime*. But he

is clear about his own chief target — producing "research that can prove, to small and medium-sized businesses in particular, what effective design can do: that where design is used in the right way it can be incredibly effective in improving the bottom line. Without the evidence, why the hell should anyone listen?"

Far too few have. Founded in 1944 and granted a charter "to promote by all practicable means the improve-

ment of design in the products of British industry", the council was launched with an exhibition of 5,000 British products at the Victoria & Albert Museum. It was called "Britain Can Make It". To Britons brought up on a diet of wartime utility it was a visual feast.

But then the council somersaulted through so many restructurings that by the late 1980s it no longer knew what it was about. Those triangular

black-and-white Design Council labels had swung in and swung out again, and the Haymarket space looked more like a tacky gift shop than a window on tomorrow's world.

Paul Thompson, director of London's Design Museum, has faith in Sorrell's forthcoming overhaul, and agrees that the priority is selling the economic benefits of sucking designers into the manufacturing process at an early stage. "Design isn't just a bolt-on afterthought, but an integral part of a product," he argues. "It can reduce tooling costs, increase profitability, lower manufacturing costs, increase speed of production." This has always been a tough corner to fight. Back in 1940, Loewy bet the man from American Tobacco \$50,000 that his design for the Lucky Strike pack would boost sales: Loewy won.

Sceptics about the council's future include Lynda Bell-Knight, the editor of *Design Week*. "Design is not yet part of our culture. It's part of our culture to be sensitive to price. In Italy there is a tradition of manufacturers and designers working hand-in-hand on things like furniture and cars. In Japan they don't look at design for design's sake but as an integral part of the product."

She says designers want "a lobbying group. They want to be heard and they want to be included in the development of products. They need a voice at top level. They also need somewhere they can go for information on new technology, new processes: things like that are changing all the time. The new Design Council hasn't said yet whether it will cover this ground. I have a lot of faith in John Sorrell. I'm not sure he's been given enough power to make a success of it. I'd love to be shocked and proved wrong."

Daniel Weil, Professor of Industrial Design at the Royal College of Art and part of London's Pentagram design group, shares this sense that design is not yet in our blood, but thinks British managers are learning.

A hard sell might speed up that education. Rene Gustafson, co-director of the European Design Register, which puts manufacturers such as Unilever, Whitbread and Smithkline Beecham in touch with designers, argues: "Everyone will buy into the idea of design intellectually, but when it comes to where you put the extra £1 of investment — design, advertising, and so on — you've got to persuade someone. That's the Design Council's job."

Sorrell accepts the task is not easy, but thinks it is manageable. His own clients — the AA, Boots and DHL among them — seem to have heard the message. "British designers are the best in the world," Sorrell says. "The tigers of South-East Asia don't have that resource. They're buying it in from over here, and then we buy back those goods. People talk about Britain as being the design studio of the world. I want to make Britain the design studio of UK plc."

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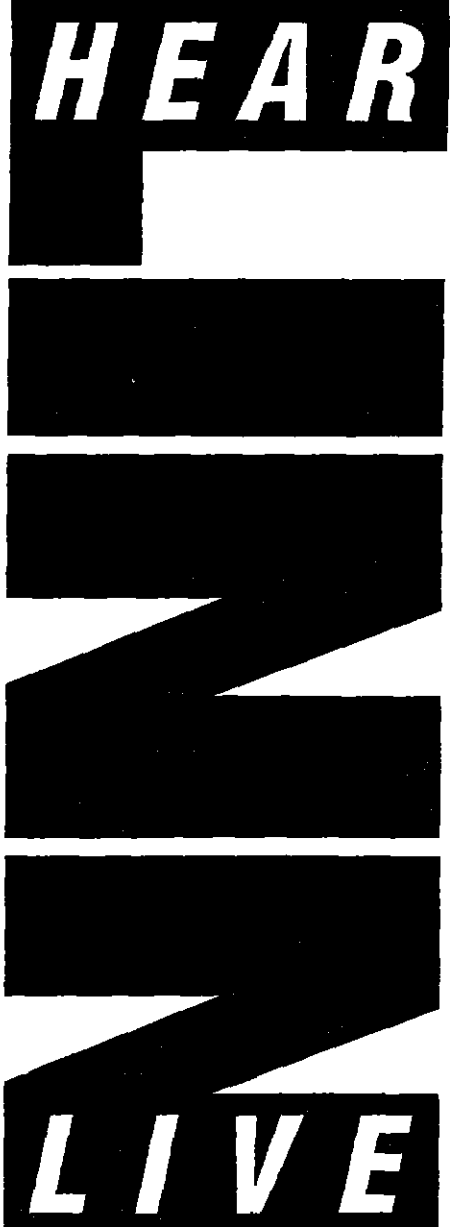
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THEATRE: Kate Bassett on a Shakespeare that fails to bewitch and a fairy-tale love story with a romantic twist

No sap rising in this forest

I HAVE been more ensorcelled. The Forest of Arden, half a tree seen through a rectangular hole in the blackness, has had its magic sadly pollarded by the English Touring Theatre. Admittedly, a Saturday matinee in Worthing is going to struggle to bewitch even the most willing, but ardent romance really isn't in the air with Kelly Hunter's Rosalind. Speeches stagnate, with Jacques's sketch of the Seven Ages of Man seemingly lasting a lifetime. Hymen's masque hardly has you in raptures, and Ganymede, Rosalind's persona in doublet and hose, works very limited wonders there.

Stephen Unwin's production, generating languid performances from a cast who ought to be better, lacks youthful pep. Arranged stage-pictures take precedence over natural animation. Charles Edwards's Orlando starts out with some passion, livid at Oliver for keeping him in thrall, but goes off the boil.

Rosalind and Celia are missing the supple liveliness of intimate friends and the

sensitive intensity of adolescents struck by love. Hilary Lyon explores none of the intimations of disaffection in Celia's reaction to Rosalind's obsession with Orlando. Still, there is amorous tenderness when she finally pairs up with Oliver (Sebastian Harcombe). As You Like It is a delicate searching drama of sexuality where superimposed masculinity and femininity resist segregation. Unfortunately, this cross-dressing Rosalind isn't much more tantalising than a pantomime prince. Hunter has failed to root out the profound implications of Rosalind's behaviour as, denied a father, roughly handled by her usurping uncle and newly enamoured of a strong young man, she adopts male clothing and blows emotionally hot and cold.

The whole staging muddies dramatic contrasts. Designer Bunry Christie's glowing square floor should be a focus, yet characterisation is hazy. Furthermore Senor's Arden is scarcely distinguished from Frederick's closed court.

As You Like It
Connaught
Worthing

Boys from the dream stuff

Beautiful Thing
Duke of York's

GAY and spreading a little happiness, Jonathan Harvey is good news. Still only 26, a whipper-snapper in the world of playwriting, he is already in the West End (no, there isn't a law against it).

Not only is *Beautiful Thing* just up on its feet — lively if somewhat wobbly — at the Royal Court. Now *Beautiful Thing*, his sensitive comedy about love flowering between two adolescent boys in the precincts of a Thamesmead housing estate, has transferred with a new cast to the luxurious Duke of York's. This is wishful thinking come true for a production that began life out at the Bush.

Beautiful Thing is, in some ways, an innocent bundle of joy. The conclusion is certainly optimistic. Jamie and Ste are not just out of the closet, they're on the concrete walkway for all to see, tenderly dancing cheek to cheek. Indeed, Jamie's brassy single mother, Sandra, is mellowly taking to the floor alongside, partnered by foul-mouthed young Leah of all people: a pair of brazen slappers who were previously at each other's throats, are now apparently



Richard Dormer (left) and Zubin Varla, out of the closet

converted to love and peace. Harvey has been accused of filtering reality through rose-tinted spectacles. Well, yes. But, he's hardly naive. He is gently, deliberately, appropriating romance. *Beautiful Thing* teasingly starts out hinting that heterosexual sweetness and light are on the horizon, with Jamie and Leah (his teenage neighbour to the right) gazing at a rainbow.

The play refreshingly turns out to be the love story of Jamie and the boy-next-door on the other side.

This dramatist has his tongue knowingly in his cheek. Tony, the hippy-talking, covertly middle-class artist, wears absurd pink-tinted shades: Sandra unsentimentally bins him. Meanwhile her son's outrageously happy ending pointedly moves into the

realms of camp fairy tale. As the boys dance, a glitter ball from heaven sparkles over the high-rise. It's ironic. Simultaneously it's miraculously affirmative. Actually, even as it looks fantastical, this glimpse of acceptance and alternative sexuality on a battered council block is not a Never-Never Land.

The action, under Hettie Macdonald's generally fine direction, isn't totally feasible. Amanda Brown's Sandra is a little hard to swallow, throttling Leah with a hosepipe. Then again, Rhys Ifans's Tony (amusingly sissy but underplaying secret arrogance) could be more comically stereotypical and remain painfully recognisable.

Diane Parish's Leah, even if she might be more frustrated, is highly convincing even in the impossible hallucination scene where she appears kitted out as her idol, Mama Cass. Zubin Varla (shy rebel Jamie) and Richard Dormer (Ste, still emotionally tender though beaten black and blue at home) give truly touching performances, combining fear and bravery. In a play that charmingly opens the doors between docudrama, affectionate social satire and the stuff that dreams are made of.

Tune in to your community

RADIO: Peter Barnard welcomes the opening up of the airwaves

ANYONE who shares living space with one of those compulsive twiddlers along the upper range of the VHF band has two things: my deepest sympathy and some reason to look forward to the end of next week, when the Radio Authority will have some important things to say about the future of the medium in Britain.

First, the twiddlers who fiddle about between 105 and 108 FM in the hope of hearing a man on a fire engine talking to a woman in an ambulance will soon have to go trawling elsewhere. This frequency range is to be given over to proper radio, if only for the time being in Greater London.

The change follows a long consultation process and will

herald, later on, the fully-fledged arrival in this country of community broadcasting, which does not necessarily mean 24 hours of pop music recorded in a local pub interspersed with appeals for the return of a lost iguana.

I am all for community radio, though I have no plans to listen to very much of it. What I like is not the point. The point is that radio is a relatively cheap medium and therefore it offers access to individuals and groups who are economically barred from other media.

The Radio Authority will announce next week a "work-

ing list" of areas across the country which are thought to be suitable for additional radio licences, some of them covering large-scale broadcasting and others small-scale operations, or community radio.

This will be followed by an applications process and the awarding of licences. The stations will not come on air all at once, but it is likely that the first ones will be broadcasting early in 1996. The

upper part of the 105-108 band will be reserved for community stations. Meanwhile the hard news next week will concern who has won licences to broadcast in Greater London. There are six licences to be awarded in all, four new ones and two for existing frequencies held by Capital Radio. All told, the Radio Authority has received 41 applications for the six licences, three on AM and three on FM.

Although new broadcasters will grab the headlines, the most intriguing question is what happens to Capital. My best guess is that nothing will happen: Capital, which has of course reapplied for the licences, is likely to have them renewed, and retain both its Gold service on AM and Capital FM.

Capital has been on the air since October 1973 and the Radio Authority, under the urbane Lord Chalfont, is not prone to making sensational decisions just for the hell of it. And a look at the new mainstream contenders suggests most of them would be offering a similar mix of programming: "soft adult contemporary music" is a phrase that litters the applications.

It remains to be seen how the areas for new stations around the country will be designated and, eventually, who will get them. One piece of good news is that the Radio Authority has rejected the notion of handing frequencies to the highest bidder.

Nonetheless, there is bound to be a huge demand for licences, from large interests through to ethnic and other minority bidders, so this is certain to be a can of worms. Equally certainly, it is worth opening, for a diversification of radio offers exciting opportunities for broadcasters and listeners alike.

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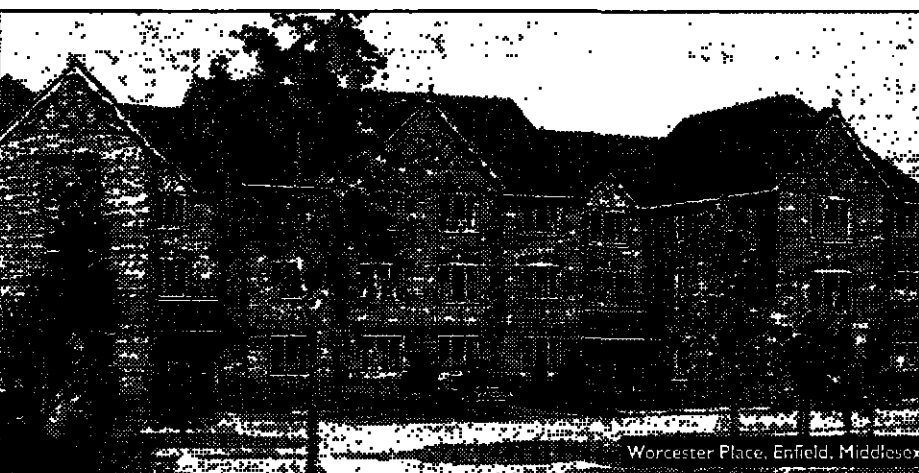
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TOP RATES FOR TOP TEMPS

We urgently require high calibre senior level secretaries for a wide range of assignments in the City. If you have a minimum of three years secretarial experience and good knowledge of the latest WP systems please call us now for short/long term assignments. Short/long term assignments are also available. For board level assignments expect £10-£10.50 an hour. For director level assignments £3-£3.50 an hour. Plus holiday bonus and bank holiday pay. Please telephone Karen or Stephanie on 071 520 9388/071 628 9629.

Elizabeth Hunt
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

BORN ORGANISER £20,000

This dynamic team of executives require an organised and proactive PA/secretary. There will be no time to be bored in this role which combines office management and secretarial support. The ideal person will be numerate, enjoy using their initiative and have the ability to prioritise. Previous financial experience and 80/80 skills required. Please telephone 071 628 9629.

Elizabeth Hunt
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

GOOD PROSPECTS £17,000

For generous discounts on beautiful clothes when you join this famous fashion house as PA to their chairman. Lots of leisure with designers, photographers, model agencies etc as well as general shopping and dining with your own private. You will be actively encouraged to use your initiative and get involved in the business. There are opportunities to move into design, production or buying if you are interested. 80/80 skills and WP experience needed. Age 25-35 years. Please telephone 071 486 2321.

Elizabeth Hunt
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS



£20,000

TRUE ASSISTANT

This is an unusual and highly challenging role for a career-minded PA. A charming Director of this world-wide group is seeking a bright, confident and down-to-earth assistant to be his "eyes and ears" as he travels a great deal. You must be able to work on your own initiative at all times and make decisions on his behalf, as well as giving efficient organisational and administrative support. Ideally you will have several years senior PA experience, be aged 25-35 and be keen to take on an involved role where the ability to deal with European clients is essential. To hear more about this excellent opportunity call Sarah Williams on 071 225 1888 immediately.

VICTORIA WALL ASSOCIATES



£20,000 + Excellent Bens

EUROPEAN AFFAIRS

Working as an Assistant to two analysts within a prestigious investment management company based in Covent Garden, you will be expected to organise extensive travel itineraries, set up meetings and conferences and handle all enquiries in their absence. The ideal candidate will be in their twenties, at level educated and have an excellent knowledge of spreadsheets and Word for Windows. You must enjoy researching markets and preparing information for presentations. If you have plenty of initiative, common sense and enjoy being left to your own devices then this could be the ideal type of job for you. Please call Victoria Wall on 071 225 1888.

VICTORIA WALL ASSOCIATES

PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT
TRAINING DAY ON:
SATURDAY OCTOBER 8TH

TEMPSON

THE TIMES

unlocking people's potential

THE INDUSTRIAL SOCIETY

Join us for a highly successful personal development day created especially for you! Attend six powerful workshops geared to help you get more satisfaction from your temp work: Communication skills, Assertiveness, Interviewing and Job Hunting, Technology update, Managing Money and Tax, and Presenting a Positive Image. Invest one Saturday and change your life!

Fee: Just £35 + VAT towards costs.

Venue: The Industrial Society, 3 Carlton House Terrace SW1, Time: 9:45 - 5:00 with lunch and refreshments provided.

Phone Linda Kirkland today at Tate Appointments - 071 408 4424 - for a programme and booking information.

Tate

PA plus PR c.£17,000

This is the world of fashion, lifestyle and retail PR. Big personalities. Pressure. Big business. And at its heart, a rock-solid PA/office manager. Keeping calm. Controlling priorities. Providing superb secretarial and admin support. First and foremost, you'll be right hand to Stephanie Churchill, who heads this creative, respected and very successful consultancy: diary, travel, correspondence, and protection from minutiae. Beyond this, you'll deal with everything from landlords and office equipment, to petty cash and petty bills.

Excellent secretarial skills, knowledge of WordPerfect 5.1, Word, and Excel, and a mature, well-organised style are essential. 5 years' experience in a fast-moving service business would be ideal.

Please send or fax your cv to Stephanie Churchill, 5 Imperial Studios, Imperial Road, London SW6 2AG (just a stone's throw from Chelsea Harbour). Fax: 071-384 2563.

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PRESS AND PUBLIC RELATIONS

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One in a million to £25,000 - City

Do you have the ability to deal at all levels, to lead by example and to retain the human touch in all circumstances? Our client, one of the most respected names in the City, needs a skilled PA to look after their inspirational MD and co-ordinate administrative support at senior executive level. High quality role for which good secretarial skills and experience are essential.

The taste of success to £22,000 - Knightsbridge

He is one of the world's leading restaurateurs. As his PA you will take responsibility for a busy schedule of international travel, business liaison, publishing, consultancy, etc. Fluent French and German desirable; excellent (mother-tongue standard) English essential. London-based car owner preferred. Knowledge of the catering business helpful. Rusty shorthand/good typing essential.

A world of opportunity to £19,000 + overtime

This is an opportunity to break into the highly paid legal field. Our client, a brilliant international oil company, seeks a skilled secretary with fast, accurate typing, good computer experience and some French to work with one of their most dynamic (and friendly!) lawyers. Fast, accurate typing (70wpm+) essential. A-level education an advantage. Professional company background preferred.

Committee of
Postgraduate Medical
Deans and Committee of
Regional Advisers in
General Practice in
England

Personal Assistant to the Business Manager

Salary £13,500 - £14,000 inclusive

We seek a flexible and competent Personal Assistant to support the work of two national committees, comprising senior medical professionals and managers who advise on postgraduate and continuing medical education for doctors. The PA must have excellent computer skills (Word for Windows v.6) and be numerate, literate and articulate. An understanding of databases would be an advantage. This is a new post. It will be based in the BPFM. We have an active policy of staff development and offer pleasant, no smoking offices and a social club.

An informal discussion may be held with Miss Anne Mochrie, the Business Manager, on 071 404 2931, after 3 October. CVs should be sent to Mrs Hazel Mindham, Assistant Secretary-Personnel, BPFM, 33 Millman Street, London WC1N 3EJ by 14 October.

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

MARKETING SEC

£17K + bens

Have you a desire to work in a dynamic office based in the City for a dynamic firm? Marketing Dept. Are you an experienced Secretary aged 22-30 with min. 25 years typing, ideally 30-40, and able to organise a hectic Marketing Dept?

Call Andrea Grant

TEAM SEC

£18K package

If you are hungry for a challenge and would like to work in a fast-moving environment where you are organising 5 people - we have a position based in an Investment Bank. You should have at least 1 year experience, knowledge of word processing and excellent organisational skills.

Call Sophie White

Tel: 071 379 0333

Fax: 071 379 0113

SECRETARIAL

& TEMPORARY

appointments



PA TO CHIEF EXECUTIVE

£28,000 Package

Are you ready for the ultimate step to work for the Chief Executive of this thriving company? You will have at least an 'A' level education, have worked at senior level previously and be hungry for responsibility & challenge. Full PA duties - organising the company's chauffeur, corporate hospitality days & extensive travel itineraries. Plenty of scope to get involved with special projects. In addition to commitment and flexibility, you will have good shorthand (90wpm) and Word for Windows experience.

A GLOBAL ROLE IN LUXURY PLC

Manager to Board Level Temp Secretaries

Highly Competitive Rates Pan European has been retained by a high profile, expanding international PLC to put together a team of highly professional secretaries to offer support for all levels of management up to board level. Despite being a temporary, you would still have extensive product awareness training, the chance to work 52 weeks a year at competitive rates & paid holidays. In addition, as the PLC has an expansion policy, there are temp to perm opportunities. Shortlisted are advantageous and a good working knowledge of Word for Windows & WP 5.1 is essential.

TIME TO MOVE YOUR CAREER UP A GEAR!

£17,000

Are you fed up with the same old routine, same faces & being part of the scenery? Why put up with second best when you could be working for this dynamic, trend setting company. You will need to be a good team player, seek total involvement and want the chance to make your mark. If you have a minimum of 50wpm in Word for Windows or WP 5.1, shorthand (preferred) & excellent organisational skills, call now!

Please call us now on 071-734 8484

PAN EUROPEAN RECRUITMENT

Environmental Secretary Office Administrator

£17,000

Management Consultants on green issues based in West London require a lynch pin to join their team dealing with up-to-the-minute issues. Flexible and friendly temp office staff are needed. You should have excellent Word for Windows, presentation experience and good organisational skills are essential. Call Richard Bishop at Angela Mortimer plc (Rec. Cons). Angela Mortimer is an equal opportunities employer. All applications are positively welcomed.

071 287 7788

Angela Mortimer

P.A. to Managing Director

£20,000

An exciting opportunity exists for a career minded secretarial PA who has the passion and intellect to work with one of the City's leading financial firms. Your business acumen, knowledge of the financial markets and an ability to work in a high profile industry will enable you to act as his ambassador and manage all his affairs. Skills 90/60. If this position offers the challenge that you desire and you feel that you would like to pursue this or any other permanent, temporary or temp-to-perm position then call us now. Angela Mortimer plc (Rec. Cons) is an equal opportunities employer. All applications are positively welcomed.

071 726 8491

Angela Mortimer

SECRETARY/PA c£20,000 + benefits Central London

An enthusiastic and well organised person is needed to provide a comprehensive support service for a senior manager and his team at the centre of a prestigious financial services group. This will involve juggling a range of priorities and using your strong interpersonal skills and intelligence to ensure the department sustains its reputation for professionalism and effectiveness.

Fast (60wpm) accurate typing and excellent working knowledge of Word for Windows are essential minimum requirements. There is scope to expand this role so previous experience of running an office, ideally in a large complex organisation, an eye for detail and natural aptitude for refining/developing office systems and procedures will enable you to become an integral member of this high profile team. Please telephone or write with full career/salary details to David Tod at:

LLOYD MANAGEMENT

Selection Consultants 125 High Holborn

London WC1V 6QA. Tel: 071-405 3499

OPPORTUNITIES FOR PA/SECRETARIES IN MUSIC, TELEVISION & DESIGN

FINANCE TELEVISION

Break into television (Go ahead in W London) working for this well known television network. You will be responsible for all the PA's in the network. You need to have good organisational and communication skills, and experience working at senior level. 80 typ. Word for Windows. 25+ £10,000

PERSONNEL ADMIN

Working with a dynamic Human Resources Manager in this exciting business. You will be responsible for all the PA's in the network. You need to have good organisational and communication skills, and experience working at senior level. 80 typ. Word for Windows. 25+ £10,000

PART TIME REC

Advertising Agency W1. This very creative Ad Agency is looking for a responsible to work from 9am to 5pm. You need to have good organisational and communication skills, and experience working at senior level. 80 typ. Word for Windows. 25+ £10,000

Tel: 071 636 6411

Fax: 071 636 2457

124 Great Portland St, W1N 6PE (Rec Cons)

ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY?

£22,000

This small SW1 based company dedicates their time & energy to creating an ideal work environment. They carry Chief Executive, make an equally dedicated & motivated (it was meant to be!) graduate culture PA to look after the right hand. This is a traditional role with lots of organising & admin & 'supervision' of a junior support team but you will need typing (80+). You must be in your early 30's with good PA experience.

18-21 Jermyn Street, London SW1Y 6EP

Telephone 071 734 7341

A FOOT IN THE DOOR!

£15,000 + Med + STL + Bens

Graduating, then spending your first year temping or studd in a job that doesn't value your abilities, is indeed frustrating, which is why you must apply for this position now! This City company is looking for a young graduate administrator to look after their senior Director and his team. There is no heavy secretarial work, but you will need excellent skills (80 wpm min) & WP 5.1. This is a company who are delighted that you move rapidly up the ladder if you are bright, sharp, willing and hardworking. So if you are ambitious, young and want to move into the City, please call.

18-21 Jermyn Street, London SW1Y 6EP

Telephone 071 734 7341

PERFECT IN PUTNEY

up to £17,500 + PROFIT SHARE/BONUS + 24 DAYS HOLS

This unique Putney primary company are looking for a bright & lively PA (22-30) with excellent secretarial & admin skills. You will be responsible for all the PA's in the network. You need to have good organisational and communication skills, and experience working at senior level. 80 typ. Word for Windows. 25+ £10,000

18-21 Jermyn Street, London SW1Y 6EP

Telephone 071 734 7341

WEST LONDON LEAP TO THE TOP

£15,000 + Med + Bens

From Junior sec to PA to a Director is possible if you're a bright & ambitious second jobber. This American owned company is young in people & age & is going to grow from strength to strength. Their MD who is a real go getter needs a like minded Secretary, (early 20's) with good admin skills (85+ typ. & 80 wpm min) & a real go getter. This is a company who are delighted that you move rapidly up the ladder if you are bright, sharp, willing and hardworking. So if you are ambitious, young and want to move into the City, please call.

18-21 Jermyn Street, London SW1Y 6EP

Telephone 071 734 7341

Executive Assistant

£30,000

Three years your salary, your skills & experience for a public company has asked for you to see your future & responsible role, on behalf of the successful Chief Executive. This is a traditional role with lots of organising & admin & 'supervision' of a junior support team but you will need typing (80+). You must be in your early 30's with good PA experience.

18-21 Jermyn Street, London SW1Y 6EP

Telephone 071 734 7341

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Required for busy West End firm of Chartered Accountants. The position offers variety and responsibility. Word processing skills essential, ideally Microsoft Word. Salary negotiable, according to experience.

Please send or fax CV to: The Staff Partner, Shelley Simmons Pinnick & Co, 68-69 Margaret St, London W1N 6PX. Fax: 071 323 4025. NO AGENCIES

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City

We are seeking to recruit a secretary for the legal team in our London office. The ideal candidate will have a minimum of 3-4 years' secretarial experience in a legal environment, preferably in private practice. Excellent communication and organisational skills are essential as the position will involve liaison with external legal firms in the City and with senior management in our London and Paris offices. A good knowledge of French will also be a distinct advantage.

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Head of Support Services

c.£18,000

This is an excellent opportunity for an experienced senior PA or administrator to manage the support team while retaining hands-on involvement in the service. As well as supervising the work of two PAs and developing new systems, you will provide secretarial support to the Director of Social Services. You will liaise with senior managers and elected members with activities ranging from minuting management meetings to organising conferences. Ref: BP41.

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c.£16,000

As a member of the team, you will provide first-class secretarial support for two social services managers. In addition to the full range of secretarial duties, you will help out with a range of other projects including producing a customer care newsletter and arranging events. Ref: BP40.

For either role you will need exemplary organisation and communication skills, and the ability to work to tight deadlines without compromising quality. Experience of Wordperfect, 80wpm typing speeds, plus audio and minute-taking ability are all essential. You will also need a sound knowledge of relevant information technology and an understanding of the principles of customer care.

For the Head of Support Services role you will need at least four years' experience including two years supervising staff. For the Personal Assistant position you will need at least three years' relevant experience.

Both positions attract benefits including private medical cover and two performance-related lump sum bonuses.

To apply for either role please call 071-361 2645 on either 29 September 9am - 5pm, or on 3 October 9am - 1pm. You will be asked a few preliminary questions and then invited to fax your CV directly to us. Assessments will take place on 6 October and interviews on 13 October and candidates will need to be available on both dates.

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Working in tandem with two Senior Consultants you will provide full support, acting as PA in addition to providing full secretarial services. Shorthand not essential however good word processing speed is. Must also be familiar with operating and maintaining a database.

Above all, we need someone who has an outgoing personality, a positive attitude, sense of humour, ability to take the initiative, a good communicator, competent and resourceful on the telephone, geographically sound to arrange UK travel, and interested in a career with a dynamic small company.

Write quickly to tell us how you meet our requirements enclosing your CV.

John Ford, Managing Director, Albemarle Consultants Limited,
18 Great Marlborough Street, London W1V 1AF.

ALBEMARLE

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Late

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Beryl Dixon on what to expect at The Times Crème 95 Executive Secretary Show

Start spreading the news

Get out your diaries and clear June 14, 15 or 16 in 1995. Why? Because The Times is organising its first show for personal assistants and executive secretaries. The Times Crème 95 Executive Secretary Show (Crème 95, for short) — is to be held over those three days at Olympia 2 in London.

Rather than act as sponsor to a show next year, The Times has decided to organise its own, targeted at the top end of the senior secretary/executive personal assistant market. Make a note now and try not to miss it.

Crème 95 will have two partners. It will be run in association with the Institute of Qualified Private Secretaries, the leading organisation for secretaries, administrators and personal assistants for almost 30 years (watch the December secretarial column for a feature on this organisation) and the Industrial Society, which has been advising and training employees of British companies for 75 years.

At the Crème 95 exhibition you will find a large number of exhibitors competing for your attention.

Representatives from the

following market sectors have been invited to attend: office technology (computers, software networks, desktop publishing and telecommunications); business travel organisers; conference and meetings venues; corporate hospitality providers; suppliers of office furniture and equipment; manufacturers of gifts and incentives; courier and delivery services — in addition to recruitment consultants, premises management specialists and training consultants.

Space is already being snapped up. Jenny Moore, of News International Exhibitions Ltd who is Crème 95's project manager, is delighted with the response so far and cites organisations such as Read Right International, Cummins Allison Ltd (office equipment), Computer Cab, Quo Vadis Publications and Expotel Hotel Reservations as examples of companies which have already taken stands.

Why are they coming? Because they want to meet you. They know how much influence and direct buying power many senior secretaries have — it runs into billions of pounds. "We look forward to the launch of Crème 95 with interest," Tracy Johnson, of



“We have a high calibre product. We want to introduce it to the right kind of consumer.”

the British Association of Conference Towns, says: "We are sure that the involvement of The Times will produce both quality and quantity in the visitor attendance." "In a nutshell, quality attracts quality," Stewart Davis, manager of the Berners Park

Plaza Hotel, in London, says. "We have a high calibre product. We want to introduce it to the right kind of consumer." John Critchenden of Leitz UK, the office supplies and desk top accessories manufacturer, says: "I want to put our brand across to the consumer directly, but the consumer who has the buying power or who is in a position to influence purchasing policy."

Perhaps the most telling comment comes from Martin Peters, of the Leicester Conference Bureau. "For too long, organisations have wasted time and money targeting the wrong person, writing to managing directors and chief executives. They are not the people who decide where to hold events. This show will be tightly focused at those who do," he says.

To make it easy for visitors to locate their target areas, Crème 95 will be organised as a series of dedicated pavilions. All representatives from one business sector will be in the same part of the exhibition.

In addition, each pavilion will have its own seminar area. Briefings and presentations on specialist topics — such as computer networks or saving money when purchas-

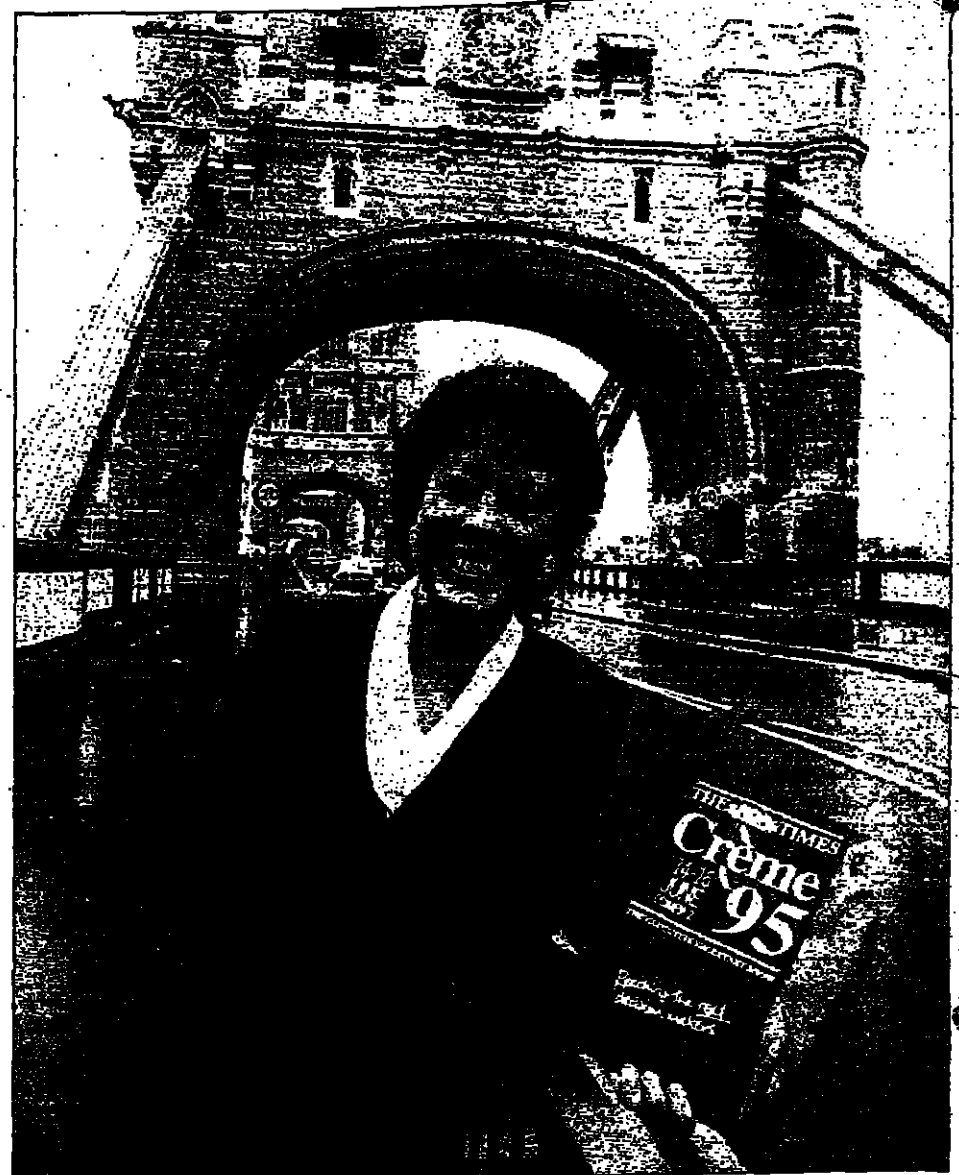
ing equipment — will be given every half an hour.

However, Crème 95 will not be merely a trade fair. The collaboration of the Industrial Society ensures that there will also be a selection of workshops and seminars on personal development topics. These will be offered at a subsidised price and will be bookable in advance.

Topics will include: effective purchasing and how to improve your negotiating technique (three separate seminars will cover technology, office consumables and business travel); managing different personalities; organising your boss; effective communications and organising meetings and conferences successfully. There will be 6,000 seminar places available over the three days.

The seminars will also be promoted to personnel officers and other managers responsible for training in order to encourage companies to give secretaries their support in attending the show.

Further details on seminar content, information on how to purchase tickets and more information on Crème 95 itself will be published over the coming months.



Jenny Moore, project manager of Crème 95, has invited a large number of exhibitors

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£20,000
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Crone Corkill
Multilingual

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You should be educated to GCSE level or equivalent, possess good secretarial and word processing skills and have good medical terminology and/or the AMSPAR certificate.
Ref: 13792x
A medical secretary is required to work for the Consultant Physician, Over Transplant Programme. The post is based in the medical unit and you will be part of a busy, friendly team. You should have experience as a medical secretary and/or a medical secretarial qualification, WordPerfect 5.1 and a good telephone manner.
Interested enquiries for this post to Dr Andy Burroughs on 071794 0500 and ask for his bleep. Ref: 13792x
Application packages for all posts are available from the Human Resources Department, 3rd Floor, Royal Free Hospital, Pond Street, Hampstead, London NW3 2QG. Tel: 071 830 2063. Please quote the relevant reference number.
Closing date: 12th October 1994
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GERMAN Speaking secretary £14,000. Other secretaries for bright, energetic, self-motivated person to join this team in West London needs a level of secretarial skills to support the German team. Good keyboard skills, ability to work under pressure and on own initiative. Competitive salary with travel benefits. Immediate start.
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Full CV applications in writing to:
Miss K Bonnell, 56/58 Putney High Street, London SW15 1SF.

ADMINISTRATOR required for The British Library to motivate, manage and co-ordinate a team of secretaries. Good keyboard skills, ability to work under pressure and on own initiative. Competitive salary with travel benefits. Immediate start.
Full CV applications in writing to:
Miss K Bonnell, 56/58 Putney High Street, London SW15 1SF.

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT required for The British Library to motivate, manage and co-ordinate a team of secretaries. Good keyboard skills, ability to work under pressure and on own initiative. Competitive salary with travel benefits. Immediate start.
Full CV applications in writing to:
Miss K Bonnell, 56/58 Putney High Street, London SW15 1SF.

BOARD SECRETARY P.A. with previous experience in a similar role. Good keyboard skills, ability to work under pressure and on own initiative. Competitive salary with travel benefits. Immediate start.
Full CV applications in writing to:
Miss K Bonnell, 56/58 Putney High Street, London SW15 1SF.

FINANCIAL £18,000. The Financial Director of a major company requires a highly motivated, energetic, self-motivated person to join his team. Good keyboard skills, ability to work under pressure and on own initiative. Competitive salary with travel benefits. Immediate start.
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ay Ga

You can find the anti-establishment posturing of Eric Cantona charming or infuriating; you can find Jürgen

These athletes show us courage and brilliance. They show us these virtues on the pitch, where their job is to wreak havoc. Admire that, draw moral conclusions from that, for that is what athletes are

Back to Chapman and Atherton. Atherton's misleading of the match referee was wrong (morally and by the rules of the game), he was found out and well-punished. He got it wrong. But he is a miser, not a self-proclaimed saint.

Moral: people who cannot tell the difference between a professional athlete and the Pope have no business preaching.

ing to us about morality.

SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE
Rb1+ 2 Kc2 Rb2+ 3 Kxb2 Qxd2+ and Black wins.

SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE
 1... Rb1+ 2 Kc2 Rb2+ 3 Kxb2 Qxd2+ and Black wins.

FROM MICHAEL HENDERSON IN KARACHI

These touring players have already taken a pre-emptive initiative to prevent more sourness. Before they left home, the players absorbed a ten-point diplomatic "sweetener" drawn up by the Australian Cricket Board designed to supply the media with stock answers to possible awkward questions. Should journalists wish to know whether anyone indulged in an "unfamiliar action" with the ball, for instance, the good Australian may now reply: "It is our job.

It is no less an important series for Pakistan, who are led for the first time at home by Salim Malik, the former Essex batsman. "We have perhaps our best ever side," he said, "which is not only young

Strictly speaking, there is no Board of Control at the moment. An ad-hoc committee is running things until a new

What effect all this has on Dickie Bird is unclear. He is umpiring in his 61st Test here

AUSTRALIA: M A Taylor, M J Slater, D Boon, M E Waugh, M G Bevan, S R Waugh, I A Healy, C J McDermott, G D McGrath, I A Mey, S K Warne. *Twelfth man:* J L Lange.

By DAVID RHYS JONES

Results, page 40

Bob Dylan, Bob Dylan and the BBC Singers. Radio 3, 8.00pm.

Hinshelght, Radio 4, 11.00pm

Charting the evolution of musical instruments from bird bone to electric guitar, Chris Andrew abandons *Hinshelght's* traditional format which he worried was just done anything else. None of the facts Andrew and his experts relate was already known to me. Did you know that the original of the school recorder was a sheep's ribid? Or that the origin of the expression "What a racket!" was a snail-shaped Tudor instrument that could, and did, blow out? The fact that the first gramophone was a 16th-century crumphorn in which secret wires concealed a

Peter Dinklage

WORLD SERVICE

RADIO 5 LIVE

5.00am Morning Reports 6.00 The
Breakfast Programme, including at 6.55
and 7.56 Racing Preview 8.35 The
Magazine, including at 10.35 Europe
News 11.15 Natural History 12.00
Midday with Mel, including at 12.34pm
Moneycheck, with Liz Barclay 2.05
Ruscoe on Five 4.00 John Inverdale
on Nationwide 6.00 News Extra, including
at 7.29 the day's sport in full 7.36 Trevor
Brooking's Football Night: Celebratory v
Manchester United 10.30 News Talk
11.00 News Extra 12.05am After Hours
12.00-5.00 Up All Night

3.00pm Nick Bailey **2.00** Henry Kelly
12.00 Susanne Simons **2.00pm**
Lunchtime Concerts: Bach (Brno)
Concerto No 5 in D **3.00pm** Jamie
Crick **6.00** Classic Records **7.00** Gardening
Forum (F) **8.00** Evening Concert:
Purcell (Love's Goddess sure was
blind); Gershwin (The Man I Love); J.
Strauss, son (Love Song Waltz); Off
(Camina Luva) **10.00** Michael
Mappin **1.00pm** André Leon

VIRGIN 1215

6.00pm Ross and Jono **9.00** Richard
Stinner **12.00** Graham Dene **4.00pm**
Wendy Lloyd **7.00** Nick Abbot **10.00**
N.J. Williams **2.00-6.00pm** Paul Coyte

THE LEADING 50 ENTRIES

Poe	Team name (Selector)
1	Baby's in Waiting (Mr Gary P)
2	Old Bonhomondians (Mr R S Park)
3	Disaffection (HJB Ebertson)
4	Pearly Poppers (Mr J Charny)
5	Pendemon (Mr J O Jones)
6	Durham Endres (E W James)
7	Norfolk Landlady (Mr John H)
8	The Robbers (Mr J O Jones)
9	Oxford (Mr B Smith)
10	North Place Acids (Mr S Jones)
11	No team name (Brian Best)
12	Headmasters (Mr A Coxon)
13	Shannon Select XV (Mr I Sirs)
14	Lawyer (F Bell)
15	Don't Be Taken (Mr B Row)
16	Duncan Shaw (Mr Peter Pev)
17	Telegraph Reader (Mr R O)
18	Waltham Fifteen (Mr S Clift)
19	Stylus Mahoney (JF Malone)
20	No team name (J Hughes)
21	T S Wanderers (Mr JA Cox)
22	Two Amateurs (GB Lines)
23	Second XV (D Ewart)
24	The Normads (Mr J Jarrant)
25	LI Wanderers (Mr Christopher)

	Week	Points	Pos	Team name (Release date)
(male)	634	2052	28	Spinning Images O
(male)	612	2082	27	Myra's Mind (M) J
(male)	598	2110	26	Myra's Mind (M) J
(male)	588	2170	25	Ask Brigade (M) J
(male)	614	1628	30	Flower Girls (M) J
(male)	612	1630	29	Flower Girls (M) J
(male)	603	1610	32	No team name (M) J
(male)	345	1804	33	Turnstone RFG (M) J
(male)	592	1858	34	The Sherry Bird (M) J
(male)	592	1858	34	The Sherry Bird (M) J
(male)	428	1683	36	The Sherry Bird (M) J
(male)	677	1775	37	Laughing IV (M) J
(male)	677	1775	37	Laughing IV (M) J
(male)	733	1575	39	Grasshoppers (M) J
(male)	447	1561	40	Grasshoppers (M) J
(male)	406	1530	41	Holzer's (M) J
(male)	406	1530	41	Holzer's (M) J
(male)	325	1510	43	Rocky's (M) J
(male)	345	1505	44	Flower Girls (M) J
(male)	345	1505	44	Flower Girls (M) J
(male)	345	1491	46	Flower Girls (M) J
(male)	704	1481	47	Scorching IV (M) J
(male)	704	1480	48	The Oval (M) J
(male)	360	1475	50	Readers (M) J

COURAGE BEST WEEKLY SCORE

JUDGES RULING
In week 2 (September 17), Bristol's prop A Sharp was wrongly attributed a try scored by their back, G Sharp. This error has been rectified and the cumulative records updated accordingly.

THE SCORES FROM LAST SATURDAY'S LEAGUE GAMES AND CUMULATIVE POINTS TOTALS

SEVEN COLOURS 14 XP - WEEK 3 - 24TH SEPTEMBER 1994

PLAYER

CLUB

NETTING

ACTING

RATINGS

PTS

PTS

PTS

PTS

1. FULL BACK

GRADE 1

1 J. CALLARD

Bath

2

K

0

0

36

2 S. PEARCE

Bristol

11

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120

3 S. MAPLETOFT

Gloucester

4

K

12

96

4 S. PEARCE

Leicester

16

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120

5 W. KILFORD

Liverpool

13

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120

6 M. HARTLEY

Northampton

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120

7 S. TAYLOR

Oxford

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8 S. J. HALL

Salisbury

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120

9 S. J. HALL

Salisbury

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10 S. J. HALL

Salisbury

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GRADE 2

11 S. K. RUPP

West Hartlepool

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12 S. K. RUPP

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2. HALF BACK

GRADE 1

1 J. CALLARD

Bath

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2 S. PEARCE

Bristol

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3 S. MAPLETOFT

Gloucester

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4 S. PEARCE

Leicester

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5 W. KILFORD

Liverpool

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6 M. HARTLEY

Northampton

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7 S. TAYLOR

Oxford

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8 S. J. HALL

Salisbury

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9 S. J. HALL

Salisbury

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10 S. J. HALL

Salisbury

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GRADE 2

11 S. K. RUPP

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3. THREE QUARTER BACK

GRADE 1

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Bristol

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3 S. MAPLETOFT

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GRADE 2

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